

Pendleton bike road race results
See Page C1



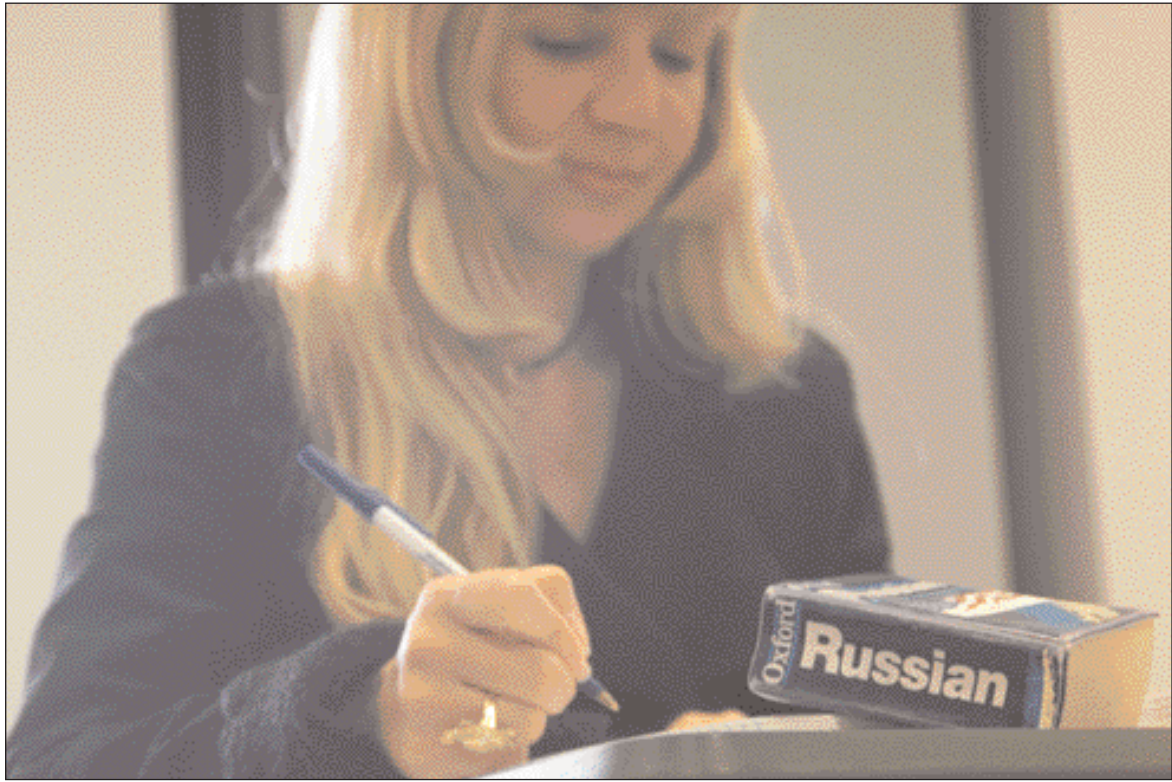
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¿Hablas Ingles?



CPL. JOSE L. GARCIA

Olga C. Clark, a native of Vladivostok, Russia, attends the English as a Second Language class at the Abby Reinke Community Center to improve her English. Clark resides in Wire Mountain within walking distance of the class.

Spouses cracking books to learn a new tongue

CPL. JOSE L. GARCIA
SCOUT STAFF

For 19-year-old Wilthan Kafo, a native of the Dominican Republic and the wife of a deployed Marine, walking four times a week to

attend a free, three-hour English class here isn't just a choice.

It's a necessity. Kafo, speaking in Spanish, said the classes she takes at Spouse University here take on new significance now.

"Now that my husband is not here, it is imperative for me to

learn English," she said.

But Kafo is luckier than some left-behind non-English speakers — she has a relative to fall back on.

"My sister, who is married to another Marine here, helps me out on a daily basis. She's my

See Language, Page A2

War planners' intent: minimizing civilian casualties

■ More smart bombs and various techniques offer greater hope for protecting the innocent, DoD officials say

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will go to great lengths to limit civilian deaths and to minimize damage to nonmilitary facilities should war with Iraq be necessary, U.S. officials say.

"If force becomes necessary, it is clear that coalition forces would take great care to avoid civilian casualties," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon press conference last week.

Rumsfeld's comments came as the United States extended a key deadline that could draw it closer to war with Iraq. That milestone — a United Nations resolution proffered by the United States and Britain. It originally issued a Monday deadline for Iraq's complete disarmament in accordance with U.N. resolution 1441, which passed in November. The new resolution could come up for a vote this week even with the extended deadline. If passed, Iraq's noncompliance could put America on the verge of war.

Also last week, a senior U.S. Central Command official briefed reporters in the Pentagon on steps the military takes to avoid or minimize

collateral damage. He explained collateral damage can take two forms: injuries or deaths among noncombatants and damage to property.

He noted that it's nearly impossible to eliminate collateral damage. Weapon systems malfunctions, human error and "the fog of war" all contribute. However, he said, steps can be taken to minimize such damage and casualties.

First, the official said, potential targets are carefully considered to see if they're likely to result in non-combatant casualties, damage to nonmilitary structures or protected sites, or if the target is in close proximity to known human shields, which Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is reported to be using. Human shields fall into two categories: people who volunteer to stay at military facilities as a means of protesting war and unwilling civilians a government forces to remain at a military site in the hopes of deterring an attack. During the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq used both foreign hostages and Iraqi civilians as human shields.

"It requires that we work very closely with the intelligence community to determine what that situation might be at a particular location," the official said.

Rumsfeld also spoke about the use of human shields during his later briefing.

"Saddam Hussein ... has used civilians as human shields on the battlefield, exposing them to bullets

See Iraq, Page A5

Fire chief ends 33-year career

■ Dennis Cross credited with broadening emergency-response repertoire

CPL. DERRICK A. SMALL
SCOUT STAFF

Camp Pendleton fire chief and Oceanside native Dennis D. Cross finally passed the torch to Timothy L. Hoover in a retirement ceremony here Friday, ending a 33-year firefighting career that took him to the top of his field — while he helped Camp Pendleton achieve a new level of broad-based emergency services support.

Cross, who retires just eight months after taking over for longtime chief Robert Praytor, shepherded a transition

to a more-specialized department less dependent on outside help to meet the the base's sweeping emergency response needs.

"He's diversified the fire department," said Scott Simpson, a fire inspector and the department's public information officer. "He's made us experts in more different areas, so we can handle our own basic mission and not depend on outside agencies."

An example — a Cross initiative to put selected Pendleton firefighters through hazardous materials training so the base can handle its own HAZMAT emergencies. The 24-man team, slated to graduate from the training March 21, will broaden emergency services here the way swift-water rescue training did a few years ago.

Now Cross, whose official title was director of Fire and Emergency Services, will let Hoover manage such

growth projects as he makes his own transition to a new, related career.

"At first I was a little nervous about retiring, but as the date came closer, I grew excited to move on to my next career," said Cross, who's married with two children. "It's a project I've been working on for two years. I am trying to create a commander/controller communication vehicle to contract to the U.S. Forest Service during fire season."

Cross' penchant for technology hadn't blossomed when he entered the firefighting business 36 years ago in search of a niche.

"I was a typical teenager straight out of high school, looking for a sense of direction, when someone told me the Forest Service will hire people right out of high school," he said.

He started with the Forest Service in

See Chief, Page A5



CPL. JOSE L. GARCIA

Timothy L. Hoover, left, assumes responsibilities as the base's new fire chief as Dennis D. Cross retires here Friday.

Uncertified childcare: Don't do it, expert says

■ Underground providers may not have training that could save a child's life

LANCE CPL. JENN STEIMER
SCOUT STAFF

Uncertified childcare in base housing often brings harsh consequences — for example, eviction from base housing for the underground caregivers and their customers.

The consequences can be graver for the children involved if their providers aren't trained in CPR, first aid and child safety.

Certified providers at Camp Pendleton have the necessary training to keep children safe in the home, said Janet Hooten, director of Camp Pendleton's family childcare network of 109 providers.

"We want parents to know the actual dangers of putting their child in an uncertified home," she said.

Like children, adults involved in uncertified daycare also face risk. They could lose military housing privileges, according to Base Order P1710.29B.

A better option for Pendleton residents is certified child care.

Hooten's rigorous program includes a class that teaches dependents living on base how to properly and legally care for children in their homes. Dependents who are 18 or older with a high-school diploma can apply. Prospective providers must furnish background checks and a referral sheet from the service member's command.

Later, after a visit from Hooten, the prospect enrolls in the one-week class. The class covers CPR, first aid, sanitation, safety and child development. Prospects also must get a physical exam.

After graduating from the



LANCE CPL. JENN STEIMER

During morning playtime, family childcare provider Erica M. Hammond writes children's names in chalk on the walkway to her home. As Hammond wrote, the children chanted the letters along with her.

course, providers have 30 days to prepare their homes for four inspections — the final hurdles before certification.

Thereafter, providers' homes are certified once a month. Providers themselves also must be recertified annually, Hooten said.

One such provider, Erica M. Hammond, became interested in the program in March 2002 when

her son reached school age. She thought it was a great way to bring playmates for her daughter into the home, Hammond said.

Now, Hammond cares for five other children — ranging in age from 17 months to 3 years — besides her own.

Working from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See Childcare, Page A5

Charity's mission: timely help for military families

JOHN RAIFSNIDER
SCOUT STAFF

Just hours before his deployment to Kuwait, the engine in Sgt. Genelle DeLuna's 1994 Saturn clattered, groaned and finally quit. It was exactly what DeLuna feared — and it didn't make his imminent departure any easier to accept, recalled his wife, Ayelet.

Ironically, Genelle was driving the car to an on-base repair facility when it finally let go and coasted to a stop — a mile short of his duty station, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

"He was so worried the car wasn't going to last and that we would be left stranded without transportation," says Ayelet.

"Then, when it finally made all those awful noises, and then quit, it really frustrated him,

because there wasn't enough time for him to do anything about fixing the car.

"He knew I'd be left here with our two kids and without a

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Safer playgrounds mean fewer injuries

CPL JOSE L. GARCIA
SCOUT STAFF

With so many injuries to children on America's playgrounds, parents should be aware of the safety hazards.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that each year, more than 200,000 children are treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments for playground-equipment-related injuries. More than 75 percent occur on public playgrounds, the rest on equipment designed for home use.

Trampolines often are involved in injuries at home. Most of those injuries — some severe — involved children.

Marine Corps Base Family Housing wants parents to supervise children more attentively when using trampolines — since 70 percent of trampoline accidents occur at home, according to the commission.

Playground accidents occasionally result in death. The commission

reported 147 deaths to children age 15 and younger with playground equipment between January 1990 and August 2000.

Some of these deaths involved unintentional "hangings" on slides, climbers and swing sets.

Experts recommend adult supervision on playgrounds whenever possible.

The commission estimates that almost half of injuries to children could have been prevented with proper supervision.

Parents are urged to check equipment for potential hazards. Among them — hard surfaces under the equipment. Surfaces should be soft and thick enough to absorb the shock of falls. Falls onto a resilient surface are less likely to result in a life-threatening injury.

Adults are urged to note the design, spacing, installation and maintenance of equipment.

Parents can make the playground a place that's pleasant and safe by following these simple safety guidelines.

Language

From Page A1

translator," she said.

Kafo is one of 15 spouses enrolled in an English as a Second Language class, offered by Spouse University at the Abby Reinke Community Center in Wire Mountain housing.

According to Jo Gordon, an ESL instructor for 14 years, the spouses are enthused about the course.

"They're motivated and excited — they want to be able to function well in the U.S.," Gordon said, adding that class sizes are about the same as they were before large-scale deployments began.

Funded through Palomar Community College, Spouse University classes debuted in 2001. The ESL class, offered Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:20 a.m., is open enrollment — meaning spouses may enroll at any time during the semester. The ESL class is

among eight offered — including Basic Sewing I and II and several online computer classes, including keyboarding, Power Point, word processing, Excel, Access and Internet for business.

Some classes through Palomar are free; others charge fees ranging from \$11-\$33.

Courses like ESL are designed to create opportunities for military spouses to increase job skills and marketability to employers.

"I have many problems

communicating with other people when I go places," said Olga C. Clark, a native of Vladivostok, Russia, who works as a retail clerk. "The class is educational, useful and has helped me with my job tremendously."

Some spouses need help with childcare to attend classes — and Palomar can help. The college offers free childcare for eligible spouses. To qualify, spouses must attend a Spouse Employment Orientation at the Community Support Services Branch on Mainside, Building 13150.

They also must have resided here for one year or less and held a job before transferring to the base.

Some spouses don't meet the criteria and are left with no choice but to drop the class, Gordon said.

"It's a tragedy to see the Marine wives come in with tears in their eyes," Gordon said. "They have no one to watch over their kids and daycare is too expensive."

"I have students who take turns baby-sitting for each other. One attends the class and the

other stays home."

Spouses also can use the Fisher Childcare Center, which charges fees ranging from \$2.75 to \$3.50 per hour.

In addition to the programs provided by Palomar, Spouse University offers courses in business and computer application in partnership with the state of California's Regional Occupational Program.

For more information on Spouse University Classes, call Community Support Services at 725-3400.

Homefront

From Page A1

means to get around, and it really bothered him because he felt like he was leaving us stranded."

Sure enough, Genelle was called overseas the next day, still lamenting his family's predicament.

Little did he know, a local organization with a rapidly growing reputation for helping military families in need — including dozens at Camp Pendleton — was waiting in the wings to help his.

Shortly after Ayelet DeLuna watched her husband of five years depart with his unit — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 (All Weather) — she was on the phone with friends discussing her car problems. One of them suggested contacting Operation Homefront.

Within minutes, the DeLuna's car problems were well on their way to being solved.

Operation Homefront, a program spearheaded by San Diego-based talk show host Roger Hedgecock, helped pave the way for the DeLuna's car to get a rebuilt engine — free.

Through Hedgecock's show and the work of the staff at CinCHouse.com — an Internet resource for spouses of military members — the DeLuna's car was towed to Saturn of Kearney Mesa, which furnished and installed the new engine and had her rolling again within a week.

"What they did for me and my family, both Operation Homefront and the Saturn dealer here, was just incredible," she said, after picking up her repaired and freshly detailed car from the dealership.

"I can't thank them enough because we weren't in a position to fix the car and I'm not sure what we would have done. This is really incredible."

Recently retired Sgt. Maj. David Francisco was one of the many people who worked to get the DeLuna family car fixed. Francisco had been retired from active duty for two weeks when

his new occupation as Saturn's military liaison would be tested.

Francisco contacted Hedgecock's show and told Saturn staff to tow the car to the Kearney Mesa Saturn dealer. Initially, Francisco thought the local dealer and Saturn would share in covering some of the cost. To his surprise, Saturn of Kearney Mesa stepped up and covered the entire repair bill.

"As soon as I heard about the DeLuna's car problems, I was on the phone to both the Hedgecock show and to the Saturn dealer here in Kearney Mesa," said Francisco.

"We knew we could do something for them, but at the time I wasn't sure what exactly what all we could do. That we were able to cover the whole repair bill is fantastic."

"I'm just glad that there is something like Operation Homefront in place for these families that have spouses deployed."

The DeLunas are far from being the only family to get help from Operation Homefront. And the calls for help are coming in increasing numbers with so many service members deployed, said Meredith Leyva, the founder of CinCHouse.com.

"We've seen a huge spike in visitor traffic since November, when the threat of deployments began to loom," Leyva said about her Web site. "Similarly, our charitable arm, Operation Homefront, has been flooded with requests for emergency assistance from families left behind by deployed service members."

Closer to home, Camp Pendleton's Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Bryant and his wife Rebecca were anxious to get back to their native Kentucky after his return from a deployment. Christopher, a gas turbine mechanic with the Navy's Assault Craft Unit 5, didn't have the cash to repair their only family vehicle, a 1993 Ford Explorer with 100,000 miles on the odometer. Without the repair, a drive home for him, Rebecca and their two children wouldn't have been possible.

A few well-placed phone calls solved their problem.



JOHN RAIFSNIDER

Saturn of Kearney Mesa technician Bob Portacio points out to Ayelet DeLuna some of the new components installed in her 1994 Saturn sedan. Repairs to DeLuna's car would have cost more than \$4,000, but were covered completely by the dealership through the efforts of Operation Homefront.

Another Operation Homefront contributor, TNT Automotive of Santee, heard of the family's plight and agreed to make the repairs.

A few days later, the Bryants left on their first trip home in two years.

"We couldn't have afforded to make the repairs all at one time, and we were thinking of trying to find someone that would fix the car and then let us make payments over time," Rebecca Bryant said.

"When the folks at Operation Homefront got involved and had all the repairs done for free, that was a real blessing for us."

Operation Homefront also reached out to hundreds of military families over the holidays, funneling donations valued at tens of thousands of dollars to those families, including dozens of I Marine Expeditionary Force and 1st Marine Division

Marines and sailors. The donations came from individuals and corporations — including Albertson's, Vons and Ralph's — in the form of grocery gift cards and gift baskets.

"We're not here just to help military people with car repairs. We've been helping military families around the San Diego area with everything — from putting food on the table to paying their rent," said a spokesman for Roger Hedgecock who declined to give his name.

"Operation Homefront will help any military family that's hurting. We're not going to pay someone's rent every month because they aren't responsible with their money, but we will help them one time to pay the rent and then make sure they get to some kind of financial counseling to help them fix their money problems."

He noted that the high cost of living

here makes Operation Homefront's local contribution especially vital.

"The bottom line is that living in this area is expensive and our military people aren't very well-paid, so everyone needs a little help now and then. That's why we're here — we're going to help those families that could use a little assistance to get by for a while."

Requests for help from local families have ranged from bread to baby furniture. Additionally, Leyva says, the needs of military spouses handling separation from their loved ones is being addressed through the CinCHouse Web site.

"The most popular topics right now are how to deal with the separation from your spouse, helping your kids cope with deployment and preparing for single-parenthood," said Leyva.

"Most of all, military wives and women just want to vent a little to other women who understand. CinCHouse allows women to do that anonymously, and once the venting is over the discussion turns toward how to get on with our lives."

Officials with CinCHouse and Operation Homefront say they will likely expand in the coming months, according to the Hedgecock spokesman.

"CinCHouse is already a nationwide resource for military families, but we're looking to make Operation Homefront and its pool of resources available to folks across the country."

"What we would like to see is auto repair shops, grocery stores and major retailers from here to New York get on board with us and lend a hand to help all the military families across the country that are hurting as a result of all these deployments."

For those who can, supporting organizations like Operation Homefront is a matter of patriotism, he said.

"Our military members are over there putting their lives on the line to protect us and our freedoms, the least we could do as a country is to take care of their families back home here while they are over there fighting to protect those freedoms."

Pendleton Points

Submissions for Pendleton Points must be received by Monday at 4 p.m. to make that week's paper. Submissions can be brought to Building 1160, Room 113; faxed to 385-0053; or e-mailed to scout@pendleton.usmc.mil.

Wheel of Fortune taping for Armed Forces Week

The "Wheel of Fortune," is scheduled for taping at the San Diego Convention Center, March 31, 2003, for Armed Forces Week. Show tapings will be at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Reserved tickets are a must and can be obtained by calling the KNSD hotline at 619-578-0571 or book tickets at www.NBCSandiego.com. Only those with tickets will be allowed in the taping. Military members in uniform will have priority for both shows and Service "Charles" is recommended for uniformity. An \$8 parking fee will be charged as well.

Base water mains to be flushed

Pendleton's Facilities Maintenance Department will continue the quarterly flushing of water mains basewide today.

Flushing is required to remove the sediment that has built up to an unacceptable level. While this sediment is not harmful, it discolors the water.

The best method of removing this sediment from the mains is by flushing large volumes of water through the lines. The water supply will be rust-colored during flushing. The flushing will conclude each day at 4 p.m.

Flushing will go in all of 17 Area and San Luis Rey Housing today. Marine Corps Air Station will be flushed today and Friday. All of Edson Range will be flushed Tuesday and Wednesday. Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity will be flushed Wednesday.

Washing of laundry should be curtailed during your area's scheduled flushing cycle. Residents should make sure the water in their quarters or barracks is clear before washing their first load of laundry. If the water is clear, you may wash from 6 p.m. until 7 a.m. the next morning on days flushing is scheduled in your area.

For more information, call Terry Cummins at 725-0602.

Help for home-schoolers

The Iowa Street Home School

Education Program has an office on base offering support to home-schoolers, including credentialed teacher advisers, free textbooks and teachers' editions, enrichment classes, a huge parent resource library, low-cost field trips and more.

The school, part of the Fallbrook Union Elementary School District, serves kindergartners through eighth-graders.

For more information, call 723-7072 or log on to www.fuesd.k12.ca.us/iss/iowaweb.html.

School taking early registration

Mary Fay Pendleton School is now registering students for the 2003-2004 school year.

Parents or guardians need:

- The child's birth certificate, baptismal record or passport
- Immunization records (must include chicken pox or a doctor's certification that the child already has had chicken pox)
- Two verifications of address (driver's license, ID card, utility bill, etc.)

The school's administrative office is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call 723-7080.

Paper offered free to deployed Marines

The Marine Corps Times is offering free copies of its weekly newspaper to Marines deploying as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Times will send copies to any "title" representing a deployed military unit.

Names need not be included.

To request a subscription, send the APO (address) to egalbra@tpo.com.

Western N.Y. and northern Pa. Marines needed for recruiter's assistance

Recruiting Station Buffalo is looking for Marines from western N.Y. and northern Pa. to come home on 30 days permissive temporarily assigned duty orders to work as recruiters' assistants.

Interested Marines may call Sgt. Maj. Anthony R. Hope at 800-367-8762 ext. 209, or 716-870-1511.

Pre-retirement seminar to be held

Marines and Navy personnel

Second Front

THE SCOUT

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003

A-3

Marines getting the goods, shopping at Coyote

SGT. JOSE M. MONTES
1ST FORCE SERVICE SUPPORT GROUP

CAMP TARAWA, Kuwait — Marines and sailors here no longer have to wait so long or drive to Camp Commando to do their shopping.

The camp opened the doors to a much-anticipated exchange on Feb. 23. The Army and Air Force Exchange Services delivered seven 44-foot trailers of merchandise valued at just under \$1 million, said Col. Kevin P. Hughes, assistant chief of staff and head of operations for the 1st Force Service Support Group. "All the products for the exchange were flown in on a 747

(aircraft), which was chartered by AAFES, specifically for Camp Coyote," said Hughes.

Shoppers can purchase a wide array of snacks, as well as comfort items such as chairs, camelback hydration systems, hygiene and tobacco products. Service members are restricted to two tobacco products per visit.

The exchange is open seven days a week and even serves those who can't visit.

"Right now we have only one (warfighter express service team that) drives to camps and provides postal, legal and disbursing services, as well as some exchange products," said Hughes, a native of Temecula.

Even though some Marines

within Camp Coyote have been here less than six months, plans for the exchange have been in the works since March 2002.

"After the planning was completed for the exchange, it only took us one week to build the shelves and counters," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carlos L. Holt, post exchange officer for the I Marine Expeditionary Force and 1st FSSG.

Because trips to Camp Doha have been restricted to official business only — and exchange lines at nearby Camp Commando have jumped to almost three hours — Holt sees the opening of the exchange as a morale booster.

"I think this will improve morale tenfold," added the

native of Jacksonville, Fla.

The line for the exchange's opening started early. The first customer arrived at 7:30 a.m. Most waited about 90 minutes to shop.

"I'm relieved because I had not been able to go and shop. I always had to give my list to someone else, and I would not get some of the stuff on the list," said Lance Cpl. Corina M. Avila, an intelligence Marine with Combat Service Support Group 15.

The exchange's opening is only the beginning, according to Hughes, who hopes to receive more Marines whose

military occupational specialty training prepares them to run an exchange.

"We hope to have enough Marines for up to five (warfighter express service teams)," said Hughes. "Headquar-

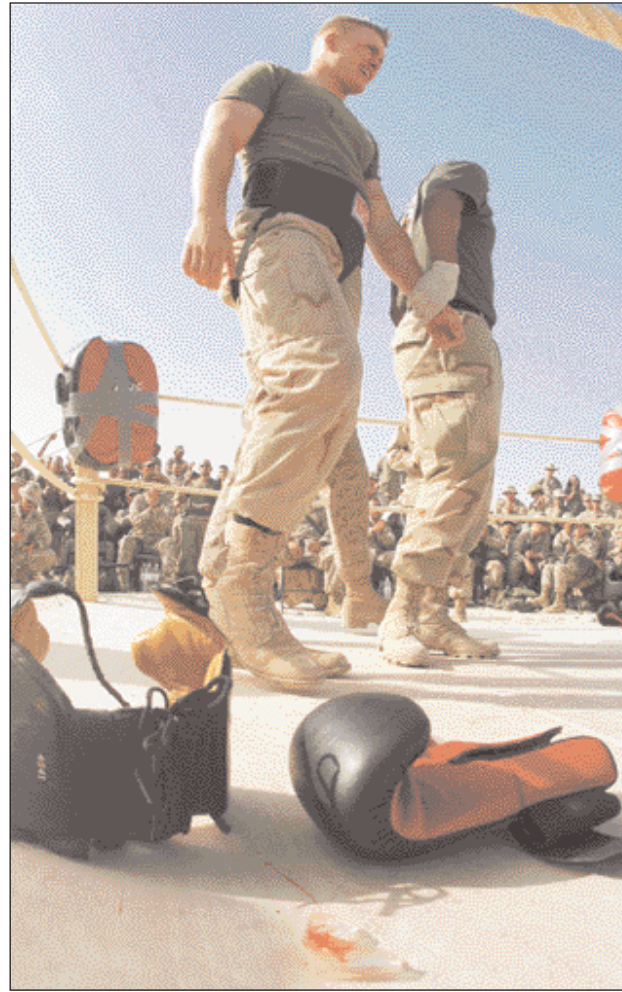
ters Marine Corps is working on getting more Marines with the PX MOS here."

Tarawa, the only exchange

"I think this will improve morale tenfold."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Carlos L. Holt
post exchange officer for I MEF and 1st FSSG

Clash in Kuwait



PHOTOS BY SGT. LEO A. SALINAS



With jarring jabs and hurtful haymakers, Marines at Camp Commando, Kuwait, came together for a day of hand-to-hand combat in a boxing "smoker" Feb. 23. Marines with different degrees of experience volunteered to duke it out with others of the same weight class. Marines taking part included 2nd Lt. Daryl E. Horton, from Columbia, S.C. — who was the Brigade champion at the U.S. Naval Academy and a two-time national collegiate runner-up. Many of the Marines had never boxed before they battled for one round of three minutes apiece. Top left: Lance Cpl. James W. Meeker, a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, sits in his corner after absorbing a flurry of punches. Each Marine undergoes a physical examination before a fight, and a Navy

corpsman is on hand to stop a fight if a Marine is injured. Top right: Cpl. Justin S. Arnold, a military dog handler with Anti-Terrorist Force Protection Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force, awaits the judges' decision. Arnold, from Mesquite, Texas, like all other boxers, is outfitted with a headpiece, groin protection, boxing gloves and a mouthpiece. Left: Sgt. Ruth E. Howe, a generator mechanic with Marine Air Support Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, throws a left cross at Sgt. Matejka Jim of Switching Platoon, 9th Communication Battalion. Howe, 23, from Bellevue, Wash., was trained by her brother, a physical fitness trainer. She also credits the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program for her successful fight.

Original bugler marvels at modern Corps' routine

■ It's a far cry from the humble, Depression-era troupe he helped found

CPL. DERRICK A. SMALL
SCOUT STAFF

The pitter-patter of marching, the booming of the drums and the reveling tenor of the bugle still echoes in the halls of Marine Barracks 8th and I where William F. Hiltbrand, one of the 22 founding members in the Fife and Drum Corps, started a Marine Corps tradition that still wows crowds and stirs patriotism nearly 70 years later.

Hiltbrand, 85, a retired master sergeant and Oceanside resident, relived the melodies of his life here Feb. 28 during a performance of the ensemble he helped bring into existence.

According to Hiltbrand, he joined the Marine Corps on Aug. 6, 1934, amid the ravages of the Depression.

"I could not pursue a college career because of the Depression," he said.

Although Hiltbrand had never blown a bugle, he was picked for the band because of his family's musical background.

"My mother was a piano teacher, and that's why the (Marine Corps Band) got me," said Hiltbrand, who was born in New

Jersey but raised in Florida. "I could still remember when they sent a representative from the U.S. Marine Corps Band to pick (from) a group of people that he'd interview to make ... the Drum and Bugle Corps."

Ironically, music not only ruled the lives of his parents — it figured prominently in their deaths.

"My mother died in 1981 while playing organ at Sunday service, and my father passed away while listening to the Matt Dillon Show on the radio. Just before he died he said to my mom, 'you know radio is not like it used to be.'"

Hiltbrand was first introduced to the Marine Corps Band in boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., where a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Band covertly interviewed him and discovered a hidden talent for drumming.

"He asked me if I liked baseball," Hiltbrand said. "He told me to show him how I acted when I was getting ready to bat. When I took the bat, I stood left-handed, but I was right-handed. From that point, they figured out that I was going to play the drums because I was ambidextrous. However, I didn't find this out until later."

Although band members anticipated Hiltbrand would play the drums, everyone in the band was taught how to play the bugle.

"I played the drum and the bugle," Hiltbrand said. "Everybody had to play a bugle in the old Bugle Corps, and if you didn't know

how, they'd teach you."

According to Hiltbrand, it wasn't difficult to learn because they had the best teachers in the world.

"Our instructors were U.S. Marine Corps Band members," Hiltbrand said. "All of them were doctors in music. Bill Keifer and Tardy



CPL. DERRICK A. SMALL

William F. Hiltbrand, 85, a retired master sergeant and one of the original founders of the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, nostalgically plays his old bugle.

Owens, percussionists, taught me drumming. They were well-versed in music and could recite every song you could imagine."

In addition to the bugle and the drum, Hiltbrand learned the guitar.

"I taught myself how to play the guitar," he said. "I wasn't a professional guitarist; I played most songs by ear because I couldn't read the notes."

It wasn't as though Hiltbrand played music all day. He had other responsibilities, too.

According to his wife, Ellie, boot camp standards dictated Marines' beds be made so tight a dime could bounce three times.

"In those days there were 64 men and eight squads in a platoon," Hiltbrand said. "Eight men in each squad was the old close-order drill, as they called it. The D.I. was a hash-marked corporal, so he had been around the block a couple times. He was the meanest and ugliest man I had ever seen. After recruit training was over, it turned out that he was one of the finest people I knew. He was just a good actor."

Besides the Marine Corps Band, Hiltbrand served 16 months with the Marine Detachment at the Naval Prison, Portsmouth, N.H. Later, he served with H Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines during World War II, running messages up and down hills.

"The legendary Lou Diamond (a World War I and II veteran who

refused to salute, wore a goatee and contributed a great deal to Marine Corps history) was in charge of Special Weapons Section on Hill No. 600," Hiltbrand said. "He used me and another bugler to (run) to the next hill about 1,000 yards distant. Going from hill to hill got tiring, so we decided to learn semaphore, a way to send messages through flags."

Hiltbrand also served as a disburser during the war. He had to pay Marines in the still of the night.

"I was working the pay message," he said. "Of all things they wanted to pay the troops in the field at 10 o'clock at night. It was so black you couldn't see your hand in front of you. We drove by instinct. In the blackness of the night, we heard 'Halt, who goes there!' We said it's 11th Marines disbursing here to pay the troops. About 100 guys surrounded us, but you didn't know it because you couldn't see in front of you."

Hiltbrand watches the U.S. Marine Corps Band perform and remembers his days as a bugler — before the Silent Drill Team was formed. He marvels at the modern team's formations and movements.

"It is amazing to see how much discipline the band and the drill team have," he said. "All Marines should be required to see their performance at least once. They are what Marines represent — discipline."

Reality TV: Too stupid, too riveting

BY JOE TRUDEL, JR.

If you are a human being living in the United States, there is no doubt you have seen one of the many reality shows. They are on at all times of the day, on every channel, and in every form.

What is the fascination with reality shows? Why are people so mesmerized by the idea of recruiting a bunch of people and putting them in real-world situations?

I, for one, am not buying it. I just don't see the appeal. I would love to reveal the idiosyncrasy of these shows and reveal why people are so attracted to them.

The first problem with reality shows is the vast number of them. So many shows have the exact same purpose — they just have different names. The list I was able to compile includes: "Survivor," "Big Brother," "I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Outta Here," "Joe Millionaire," "The Bachelor," "The Bachelorette," "Real World" and "Road Rules." Now, to me, that is a hell of a lot of shows all with the same concept. I am also positive I missed a few titles.

To me, when I see so many different types of reality shows, I begin to wonder what sets them apart. How do the people who watch these shows choose which one to watch? After a while, these shows all start to run together.

Personally, I think it's sick that our society has taken such a liking to these voyeuristic shows. There must be something fascinating about watching regular people trapped in a house for months at a time doing normal, everyday things: eating, sleeping, getting into relationships, working out, etc. I just don't get it.

Oh, and imagine my surprise when one night I finished watching an episode of "Survivor" and, in changing the channel, somehow managed to locate yet another reality show — "The Bachelor."

When is the madness going to stop?

With so many reality shows, I'm starting to notice a severe lack of originality within the shows. I selected a small sample of the shows listed in the previous paragraph to prove my point. For example, "The Real World" and "Road Rules" both incorporate

young men and women in their early 20s who must perform tasks, and neither has a winner. To me, they're the exact same show.

Another example — "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette." Now I know this one was predictable; after "The Bachelor" concluded, who didn't see a bachelorette version right around the corner?

Don't even get me started on "I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Outta Here" — Fox's knock-off of CBS's "Survivor."

I do hope that some day the originality that is now missing from our modern-day reality shows returns. But until that day, I refuse to watch them. What is exciting about watching 10 different versions of the same concept? Eventually, they will all start running together, each network with a variation of another network's show until every major network has a "Big Brother" and/or a "Survivor." Then how will the public choose which one to watch?

People who watch these shows run the risk of becoming ridiculous themselves. I can say this with utmost confidence because I draw from personal experience.

My father and stepmother are what I like to call "Reality Junkies." I coined this term for them because for some reason they don't get enough reality in their own lives, so they must get their daily dosage by watching these shows.

Now, the fact that they watch the shows isn't so bad — it's the manner in which they conduct their lives while the shows are on. For example, one night (it just so happened "Survivor" was airing) I needed to get a hold of my father. I called him many, many times. I got the answering machine each time. I knew they were home, but I didn't know why they weren't picking up the phone.

Anyway, I tried calling for about an hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. What I didn't know, however, was that "Survivor" was on from 8 to 9 p.m.

On the one successful phone call attempt at 9:30 p.m., my father picked up the phone. "Where were you?" I asked. "I have been trying to call for like an hour." He responded almost immediately with, "We were here, 'Survivor' was on."

Ha! A stupid show is more important

than a phone call?

What if a family member or friend had been in a fatal car accident and needed assistance? They would never have known it because "Survivor" was on."

The power these shows have over some people is appalling.

To this day, my father asks me if I will be watching whatever reality show will be airing that night. Then he goes on to inform me about what has been going on in the show and suggests that I really should watch it, as if it were good for my health.

On the contrary, it's not a healthy way of conducting your life, but I guess it gets him through the day.

I do feel bad for my dad and stepmom, because as much as I would like to see the reality shows done away with, I am worried what their lives would be like without them.

Reality shows have taken the public captive. I want to see the public returned to its rightful status. I almost get a tear in my eye when I think about how much better the world would be without reality shows that test the contestants' inhibitions and morals.

I didn't watch any of the "Joe Millionaire" show on Fox, except for the last episode. Why? Because, like millions of other people, I was determined to see how this controversial show would end. I still don't understand how a person like myself — who hates these reality shows with a passion — would break down and watch one of the stupidest ones.

After pondering this paradox awhile, I came up with this: Though stupid, reality TV has strangely magnetic properties.

I pray I won't be drawn to another one.

Maybe I could come up with my own reality show — a show to end all shows. One so controversial it would change the way people look at reality shows forever. I could call the new show "Gladiator," in which contestants would face wild beasts and one another in battle.

It doesn't get any more real than that — and it's been done before in ancient civilizations, only live, before TV came on the scene.

Could we be going back to that? I hope not.

Trudel is a freshman at California Polytechnic State University. His mother, Master Sgt. Kara L. Morin, is the Administrative Chief for Marine Corps Base.

Commentary

Pendleton's past



COURTESY PHOTO

From left to right, the officers of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in 1896: Capt. Paul Murphy, Capt. Thomas N. Wood, 2nd Lt. John H. Russell, 2nd Lt. Lewis J. Magill, 2nd Lt. John T. Myers and 1st Lt. Joseph H. Pendleton. Pendleton went on

to pioneer Marine Corps activities in the San Diego area during his 46 years of distinguished service. In 1942, the new West Coast Marine Corps training base was named in his honor.

The Scout

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At Ease Editor.....Rod Deutschmann

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This week in Marine Corps history

■ **March 13, 1945** – The 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 9th Marine Regiment attacked through "Cushman's Pocket," Iwo Jima. This was the last stronghold of enemy resistance on the island.

■ **March 15, 1944** – Marine medium bombers struck Japanese positions at Rabaul, an important Japanese base on the Pacific island of New Britain, northwest of Australia and New Guinea.

■ **March 16, 1922** – Marines guarded the U.S. mail during a national crime wave.

■ **March 17, 1918** – The 5th Marine Regiment was the first Marine unit to move into World War I front-line trenches.

■ **March 19, 1928** – Marine planes bombed a bandit group at Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua. This was the first use of close-air support.

Source: Marine Corps Association's annual calendar

Scouting Around

"Who will be the next American Idol?"

"I saw the Marine the first time he debuted, but I don't think he'll win."



Cpl. Keith E. Allen
Marine Corps Base



Monica Cruz
Civilian

"I don't know because I haven't watched the show in a while."



Pfc. Jason V. Wells
1st Force Service Support Group



Cpl. Travis S. O'Neill
1st Marine Division

"I've never seen the show but I think the Marine should win."



Pfc. Yenmy Chaviano
1st Force Service Support Group



Gunnery Sgt. Vernon J. Gibson
Marine Corps Base

"I think the Marine is going to win because Marines know how to prepare."

At Ease

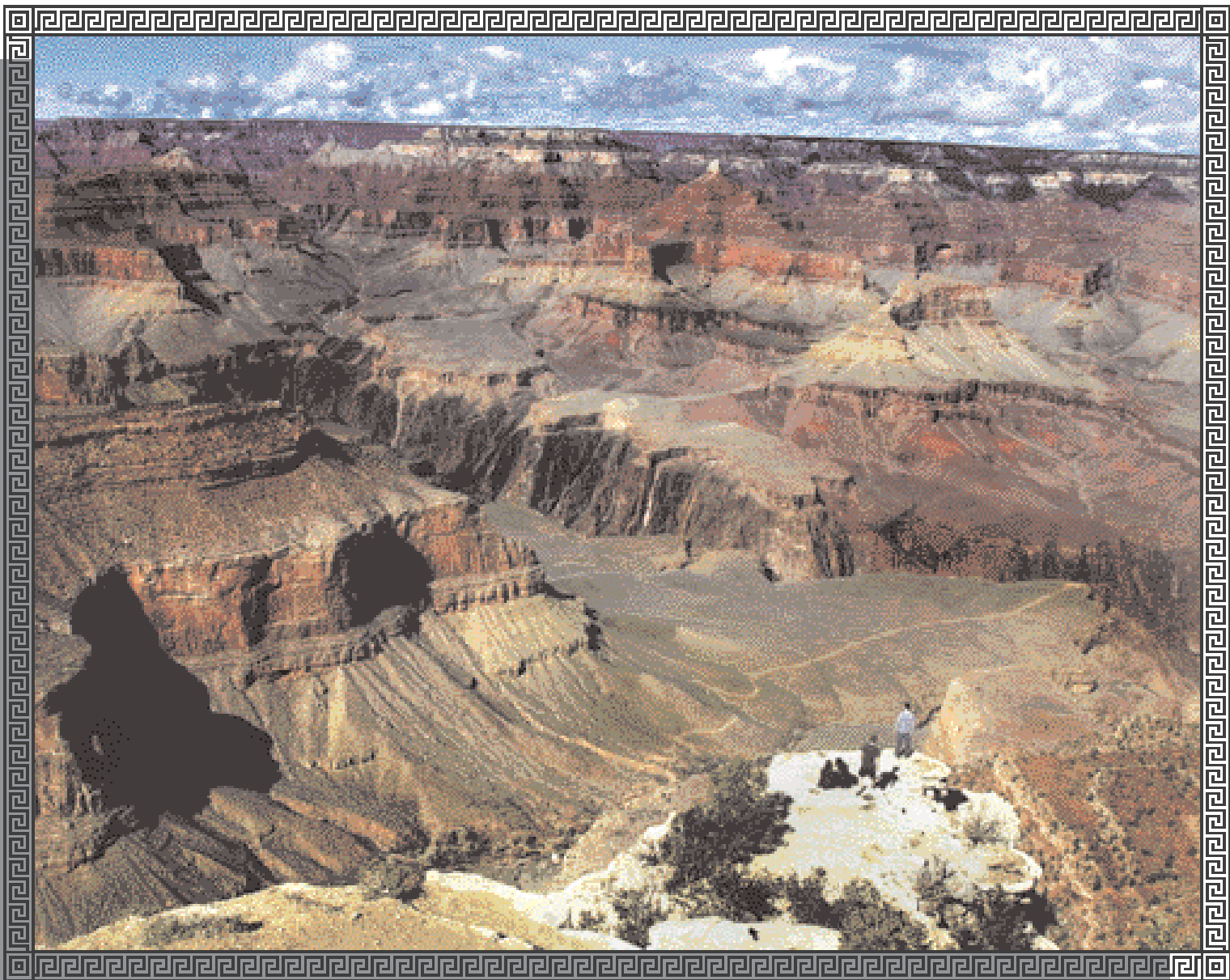
THE SCOUT

MARCH 13, 2003

SECTION B

Exploring special ...

The GRAND CANYON



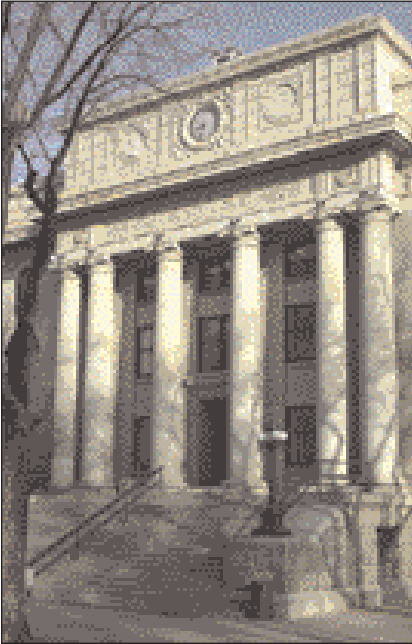
Now's the ideal time to visit the 'one great site every American should see'

PHOTO BY TAMMY RAIFSNIDER

Agreeable weather, moderate crowds — and only seven hours away

JOHN RAIFSNIDER
SCOUT STAFF

It is arguably one of the most photographed natural monuments in the United States, if not the world. For



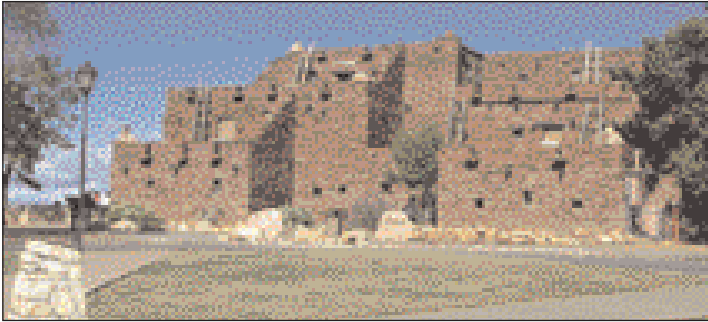
JOHN RAIFSNIDER

decades, film manufacturers like Kodak and Fuji have certainly made millions of dollars from visitors who have exposed roll upon roll of celluloid documenting its beauty.

It is the Grand Canyon, and for all its grandeur and breathtaking views, it is not high on the list of must-see stops among tourists to the West, who instead continue to flock to theme parks and entertainment venues.

None of the photos ever published in National Geographic of the enormous "Hole in the Earth" that is the Grand Canyon could

Take Teddy's advice: Go there



TAMMY RAIFSNIDER

ever do it justice. The Grand Canyon is truly one of those places that must be experienced in person.

Getting there isn't nearly as fun as being there, but with some planning, the trip can be made more enjoyable

and is certainly doable over a weekend.

The Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, 10 miles wide (on average) and a mile deep. Some parts of the canyon stretch 18 miles across.

President Theodore Roo-

sevelt proclaimed it a national monument in 1908. By 1918 Congress had declared it a National Park.

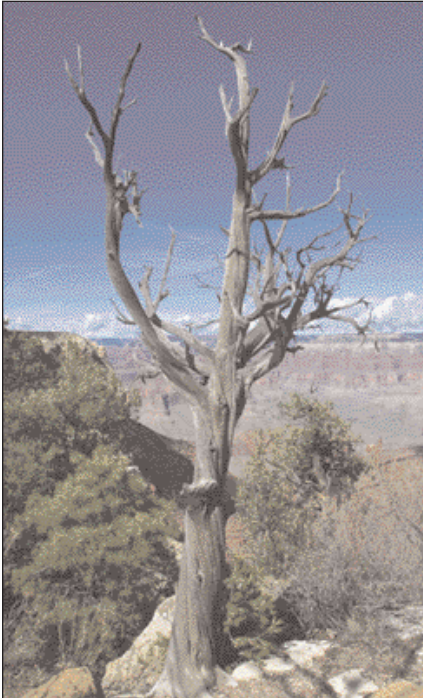
Getting there

As with so many National Parks, restrictions on vehicle traffic can cause some headaches. But here's one way to reduce congestion and pollution while easing the trip: take the train.

In 1901, the Grand Canyon Railway began making the run to the South Rim of the canyon. Although it ceased passenger service in 1968, new owners revived the passenger route in late 1989. The railway now car-

ries nearly 200,000 passengers each year to the Grand Canyon Village located on the South Rim. The railway (www.thetrain.com) also

See Canyon, Page B4

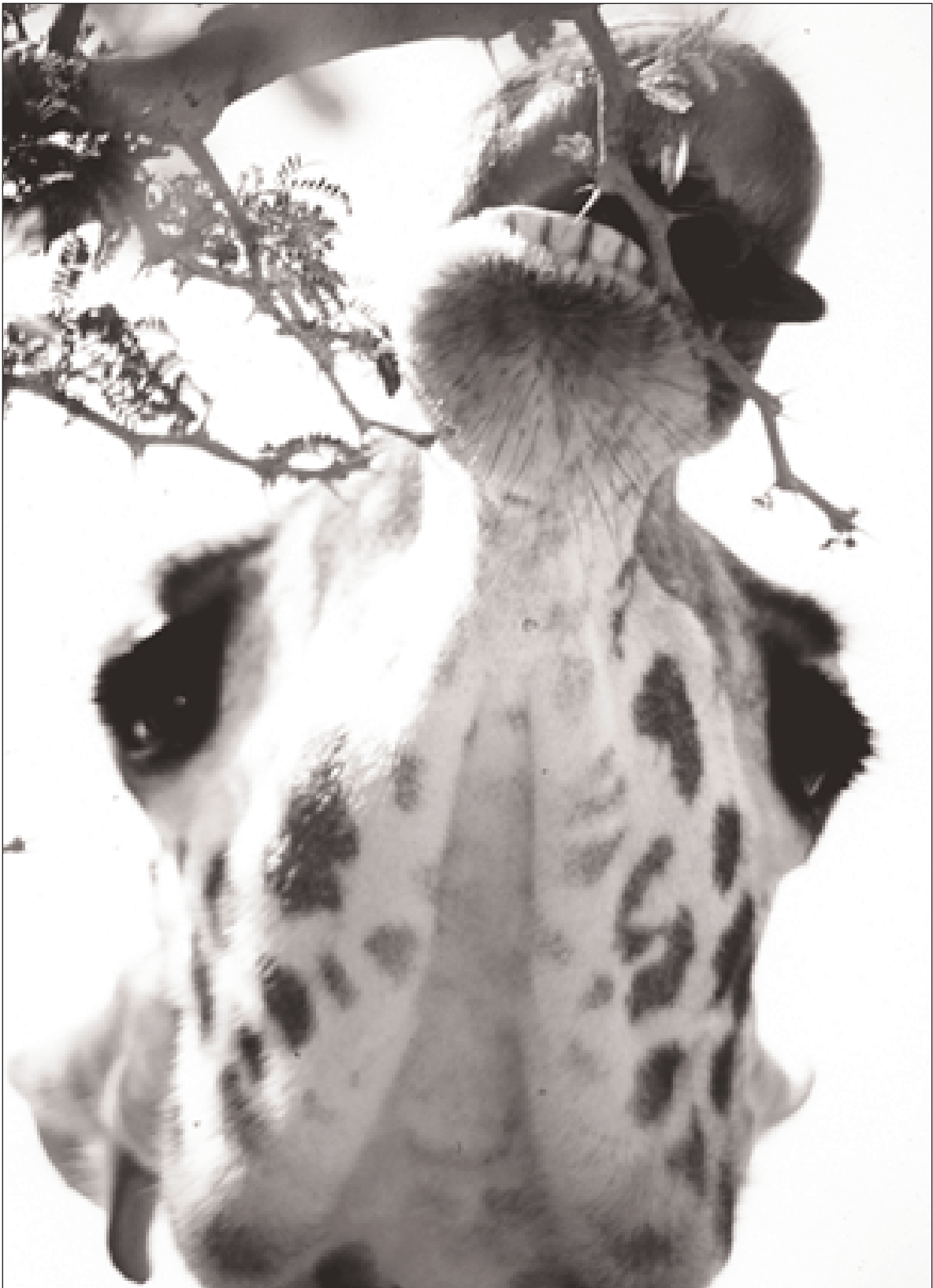


TAMMY RAIFSNIDER

Historic Prescott is 90 minutes or so south of the Grand Canyon and is the two-time former capital of Arizona. The downtown area has retained its charming western flavor despite its progression into a modern-day tourist trap.

Dinner time

Giraffes at the San Diego Zoo make wonderful portrait subjects, even when they're eating 20 feet above the photographer's head. Base ITT offices have discount tickets for the zoo and its Escondido cousin, the San Diego Wild Animal Park.



ROD DEUTSCHMANN

Expo a melting pot for design ideas

■ Active-duty military get free admission all three days

SAN DIEGO — Ideas aplenty in interior and exterior design will be on display for home-conscious consumers at the San Diego Interior Design and Landscape Expo March 21-23 at the San Diego Convention Center.

Admission for active-duty military personnel with ID is free all three days.

Now in its fifth year, the expo lets San Diegans access extensive interior design and landscape resources while experiencing exotic internationally inspired homescapes and an 800-square-foot Tuscan-themed marketplace featur-

ing Italian flowers and plants.

With "passport" in hand, visitors will embark on an adventure through 10 internationally inspired room-re-creations designed by accredited International Interior Design Association (IIDA) designers. The passport allows guests to experience designs and customs of countries from around the world. They also can get their book stamped for a chance to win countless prizes that will help them create the home of their dreams.

The show's Tuscan marketplace offers more than 500 exhibits. Guests can visit Italy's countryside in Tuscan landscape retreats installed throughout the Expo.

This year's show will include appearances by TV design celebrities Doug Wilson, the infamous "bad boy" of

TLC's "Trading Spaces," and Mayita Dinos of TLC's new design show "While You Were Out."

Wilson and Dinos both will both present hourly interior design, building and landscape seminars. Wilson will appear Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Dinos, a landscape designer, will appear Friday at 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 12:30 p.m. and 4:30

See Expo, Page B4

Military TV profiles include real SpecialOps

■ Front-line features airing Thursdays at 8 p.m. on ABC through April 3

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Adding new meaning to the term "reality TV" — including depictions of real special-operations missions — the men and women who make up America's military are being featured on an ABC-TV production titled "Profiles from the Front Line" that kicked off Feb. 27.

The series will run at 8 p.m. Thursdays. The final episode will be April 3.

The Defense Department gave the show's producers access to operations in Afghanistan and around the world. The show is part of ABC's entertainment division. ABC News did not participate.

"Profiles" is cast as a "reality" show, but it's not a "Survivor: Afghanistan." There are no contrived situations, contests or actors.

"These are real people, doing real missions in a real war," said Vicente Ogilvie, deputy special assistant for entertainment media in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

The show also places a

spotlight on America's "shadow warriors" — special operations forces.

Defense officials said they cannot remember the last time any group was given such access to the world of special operations. Special operations forces are called "shadow warriors" for a reason: They try not to garner attention. They feel working in the shadows helps them accomplish their missions.

While the coalition bombing of Afghanistan helped the Northern Alliance at the beginning of the conflict in the country in October 2001, only when special operations forces arrived on the ground did the tide turn against the Taliban.

"The fight to topple the Taliban was waged on the ground by less than 500 Special Forces personnel," Marshall Billingslea, principal deputy assistant defense secretary for special operations and low-intensity conflict, said Oct. 16, 2002. "They mounted an unconventional warfare effort tied closely to indigenous forces and linked with the United States Air Force in a way that provided for a rapid and crushing defeat of the Taliban's conventional forces."

Hollywood producer Jerry Bruckheimer, who did the movies "Black Hawk Down" and "Pearl Harbor," and the

See Special, Page B4

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Special

From Page B3

television show "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," is the executive producer of the profile series. His group sent teams of producers and cameramen to the front lines of the war on terrorism.

The series started filming in April 2002 and wrapped in October. At one point, 16 three-man crews were working around the world. In addition to covering members of the 3rd and 19th Special Forces groups in Afghanistan, the teams also videotaped members of the 82nd Airborne Division as they deployed to Central Asia.

They also caught sailors of the cruiser USS Hue City during maritime intercept operations in the Arabian Sea, submariners of the USS Salt Lake City, carrier operations aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, medics at various hospitals and food service specialists.

Ogilvie said service members tell their own stories. While the producers put some images to music, no scripts or narrations were used in the series.

"This program highlights the dedication, professionalism and patriotism of the men and women of the armed forces," he said.

Some critics have hammered the show because it highlights patriotism, Ogilvie noted, but they're out of line in his opinion. "There is nothing fake about the patriotism of the American military," he said. "The program shows patriotism because these men and women are patriots."

The Defense Department provided transportation to the film crews and technical advice to the producers. Defense officials worked with the crews to protect operational security.

While some parts of the show may make senior leaders wince, they're slices of the real military, department officials said.

Canyon

From Page B1

operates a lodge at the embarkation point in Williams, Ariz. There are several overnight packages in Williams or at the Grand

Canyon Village. Other arrangements for lodging can be found at www.grand-canyonlodges.com.

The trip from here to Williams is roughly seven hours by car — about the same if you make the trip to historic Prescott first, then on to Williams.

Traveling with small children to either location might present some problems because there is little to see along the way except for vast areas of creosote bushes and an occasional cactus. One idea is to make the drive during the late-evening and early morning hours, timing your arrival to coincide with the 10 a.m. departure of the train from Williams.

The two-hour ride through the twisting valley and up the mountain to the South Rim is a slow one because the train lumbers along at 25 mph. For



JOHN RAIFSNIDER

A memorial to fallen local military members outside downtown Prescott's courthouse. A plaque there commemorates the town's heroes from World War I to Desert Storm.

that reason, the Grand Canyon Railway folks do their best to keep you occupied with strolling entertainment and, on the return trip, a mock train robbery.

Once at the Grand Canyon Village, riders not staying overnight have two choices as to how to spend the three hours at the South Rim before the return trip to Williams.

The first is to head out on a self-guided walking tour along the canyon rim. The second is to take a three-hour bus tour.

If getting that perfect shot for the scrapbook is your goal, take the walking tour. There is plenty to see and lots of time to see it; and you'll still have time to take in a quick lunch at one of several eateries nearby and get a souvenir from one of several gift shops. The bus tour will get you back to the train station on time, but with little time for anything else.

During the heat of the summer months, a bus tour might be a better option for families with younger children or older adults.

And always bring plenty of water.

Worth a look

Historic Prescott is located an hour or so south of Williams and is the two-time former capital of Arizona. At 7,000 feet elevation, the city of 30,000 is often one of the coolest (temperaturewise) in the state year-round. The downtown area has retained its charming western flavor despite its progression into a typical modern-day tourist trap. Rooms in Prescott can still be found in the \$50-per-night range if you ask for a military discount.

The trip to or from Prescott

will surprise many first-time visitors. Most people unfamiliar with Arizona think of the state as a desert. Not so. Just like many other western U.S. areas with elevations above 7,000 feet, Arizona is filled with forests thick with pine trees. The drive from Williams to Prescott is winding, slow and awe-inspiring, with views from the various turnouts looking down into the Prescott Valley below.

A trip to the Grand Canyon and a side jaunt to Prescott require a long and sometimes boring drive, but it is worth the hours behind the wheel.

Making the run to the Grand Canyon now, during the cooler winter and spring months, will spare you the aggravation of heat-related problems with small children and with the family car. Too many locals have never been to the Grand Canyon — and it is far too long a drive when stationed just about anywhere else.

Teddy Roosevelt was right — he was once quoted as saying the Grand Canyon was "the one great site every American should see."

Expo

From Page B3

p.m.

The expo also will offer complimentary 30-minute interior design and kitchen and bath design consultations. Call (888) 970-3976 by today to make a consultation appointment.

Patrice Melusky, a show organizer, says the exhibit is designed to help homemakers tap "secrets of the

professionals," along with furniture and accessories on display, to make their homes more inviting.

Show hours are March 21 from noon to 9 p.m., March 22 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and March 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$1 for children ages 6 to 12. Children 6 and younger get in free.

For more information, call (888) 970-3976 or visit www.seascapeproductions.com.

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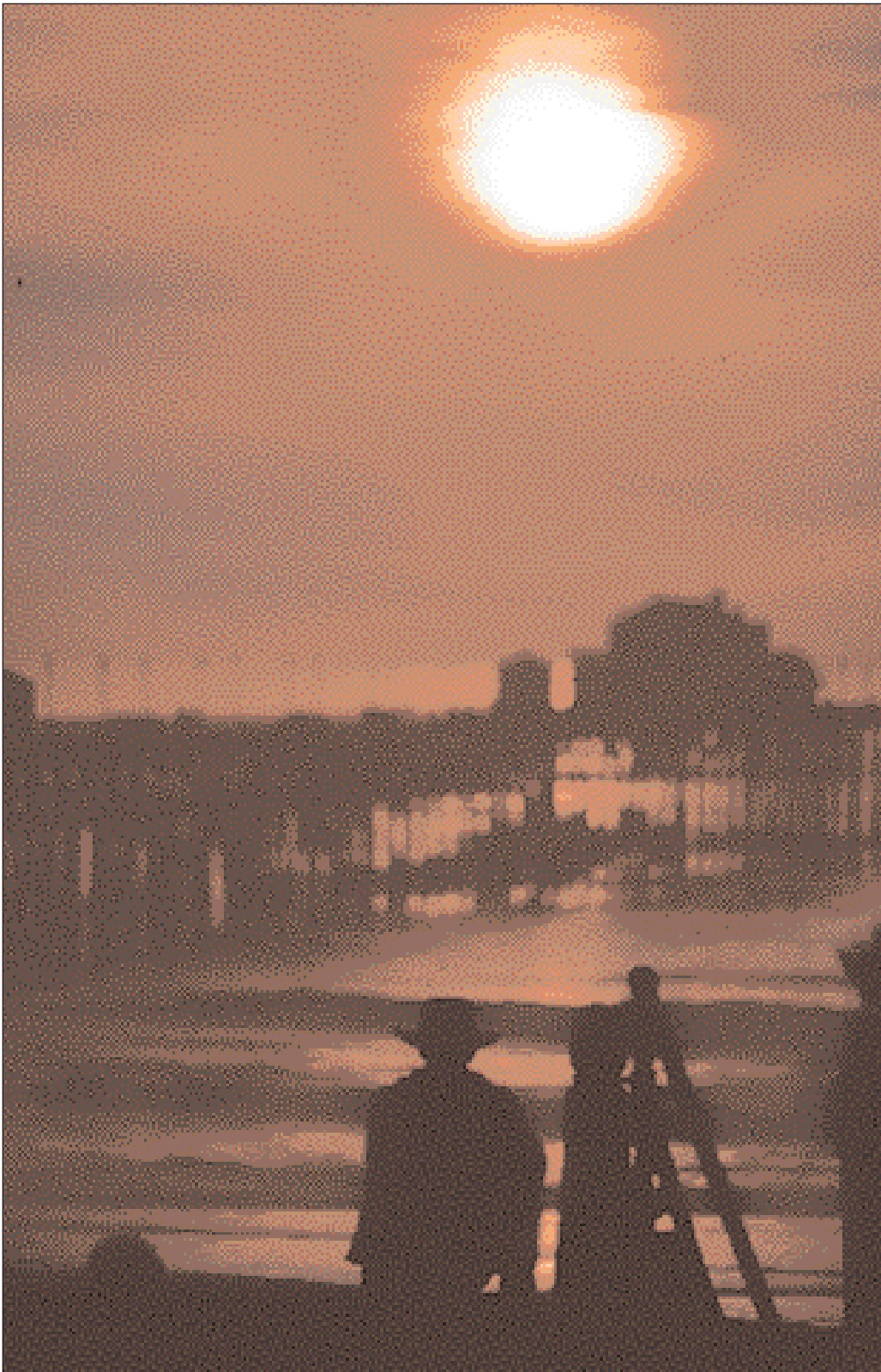
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Oceanside dreaming



ROD DEUTSCHMANN

The first Oceanside Pier was built in 1888 at the end of what is now Wisconsin Avenue. The next five were built on the site where you'll find the current pier — at the end of Pier View Way.

The concrete approach to the current pier was built in 1925, the wooden portion in 1988. At 1,954 feet, it's the longest wooden pier on the West Coast.

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Sports

THE SCOUT

MARCH 13, 2003

SECTION C

Mabus eyes return to Interservice

■ Hq&Spt. veteran kegler contending with 23 others from around the Corps

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

Talent played a big part in James Mabus making the All-Marine bowling team last year.

How else can you explain the Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base gunnery sergeant's performance last year at Camp Lejeune, N.C.?

His ability to drain strikes, averaging more than 200 points per game — when everyone's eyes were on him — helped him make the top six.

But Mabus, who finished fifth at the All-Marine championships last year, may have a good lane to an even better finish this year.

This week, the All-Marine Bowling Championships are in Mabus' territory at Devil Dog

Lanes. So talent won't be the only thing on the 40-year-old's side.

Now he's got homefield advantage and past All-Marine success in his corner.

"I expect this to be a grind," Mabus said Monday, as he prepared to make the cut among the Marine Corps' elite once again — a quest that will cover 36 games over four days if he's successful.

"If guys aren't ready for the grind, they might as well pack it in and go home."

The other 23 Marines competing March 11-14 would be wise to listen to Mabus' advice. The four-time All-Marine bowler says consistency and confidence are the keys to finishing in the top six. Those who fall in that elite group will advance to the All-Armed Forces Bowling Championships starting Monday at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

"This will be a good tournament. ... I can tell you this, whoever comes out on top after this week, deserves to go (to Lackland)," said Mabus, one of five Marines from Camp Pendleton competing for the elite title as the top bowler in the Marines. The others are Gary Crosswhite (Hq&Spt.), Richard Nixon (I Marine

Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group), Aaron Varner (4th Marine Division) and Fred Riano (11th Marine Expeditionary Unit).

"It's going to be important to have the right mindset. If you have a bad game, you can't let it affect you mentally. If you let it get to you, you're done."

Travis Smith, a first-year All-Marine bowler from Okinawa, understands what the grizzled-veteran Mabus is saying.

"You really can't worry about a bad ball. Once it's down, it's over. If you have a bad game, you have to be able to forget about it," said Smith. "The biggest thing is picking up spares and staying consistent."

Smith is one of the 19 bowlers who have come from other bases, including Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Camp Lejeune, Quantico,

See Bowlers, Page C5

JOHN RAIFSNIDER

Pendleton's James Mabus is looking to make the Interservice team for the second straight year.

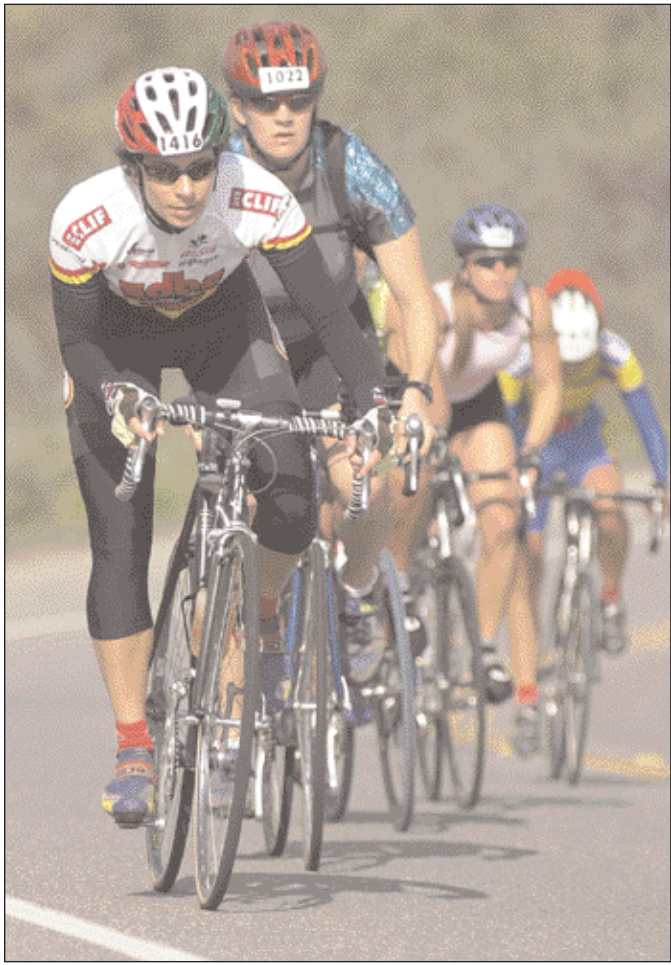


Spinning wheels



Troy Eddy, left, takes a look back at the pack of riders following him early in Saturday's Bike Road Race. Eddy finished third in the men's 35-39 division. Below, Susanne Plahuta leads a group of women riders along an uphill portion of the 27-mile course. Plahuta was second in the women's 30-34 age group.

PHOTOS BY
DANIEL RAIFSNIDER



Civilian Morrill takes crown in Bike Road Race

■ Easley, McKenna each second among military finishers

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

Looking more like a guy who enjoyed a day at the massage parlor than someone who just finished a painstaking bike ride, Brad Ellis relaxed in the sunshine Saturday outside the 43 Area Gym.

The 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion bicyclist had just completed the Commanding General's Cup

Road Race — but his comfortable state had nothing to do with the free rub-downs given to all competitors.

In fact, he didn't even consider the freebie because he wasn't physically drained after the 27-mile journey through Camp Pendleton's lush rolling hills.

Ellis was prepared for the moderately challenging route because of his normal practice sessions with his teammates from Camp Pendleton's Tri-Team.

"This was a good ride," said Ellis, who finished sixth in the competitive 30-34 age division with a time

See Bike, Page C3

N.L. Preview: Road to title goes through Phoenix, Philly

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

Baseball feels different this spring. I'm not sure why, but for some reason, the sport has a new, re-energized feeling this year.

When spring training came around the last couple seasons, I looked right past March and April, straight to August — when the NFL's training camps open up.

I guess Baseball had lost its edge for me, like an aging hurler loses zip on his fastball.

Maybe I was sick of knowing the big-market ballclubs — like the Yankees — would inevitably be standing with the World Series trophy in October.

Maybe it's because I'm from San Diego and I had grown tired of watching the Padres fall out of contention before May.

But this year, I have a different outlook. I'm not as jaded by baseball's glaring flaws. The grand ol' game is once again stoking my interest.

Hopefully this All-Star break, the Yankees won't trade minor-league "prospects" to the Padres for proven veterans. That would probably force me to start longing for football again.

But here's to hoping the new season stays fresh. And here are my National League picks for the 2003 season. I'll have my thoughts on the American League next week.

N.L. West

1. Diamondbacks

As long as Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling are toeing

the rubber, the Diamondbacks are the favorites. The addition of Elmer Dessens, formerly with the Reds, will help solidify the club's starting rotation. The Diamondbacks are hoping Luis Gonzalez returns to his 2001 form, and rookie Lyle Overbay can contend for rookie of the year.

2. Giants

No matter what the Giants say, losing Jeff Kent was a serious blow. Now who is going to pitch to Barry Bonds? But as long as Bonds is in the lineup, the Giants are contenders. He simply is the best player of all time.

The club's rotation, which lost Russ Ortiz but added Damian Moss and several hot-shot rookies, might be better than last year. The Giants think the addition of Edgardo Alfonzo will soften the loss of Kent. But without his big bat, don't bet on these guys returning to the World Series.

3. Dodgers

The Dodgers' rotation, which consists of Kevin Brown, Andy Ashby, Kaz Ishii, Odalis Perez and Hideo Nomo, is solid, but has injury concerns. Shawn Green and Brian Jordan are the club's best offensive weapons. But there weren't enough upgrades during the off-season — sorry, Fred McGriff fans — for Dodger faithful to be too optimistic.

4. Padres

The loss of slugger Phil



Nevin

See Preview, Page C5

Turnout brisk for softball and hoops

■ MCCA sports officials heartened by interest in upcoming seasons

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

The room was nearly filled when intramural sports coordinator Kerrie Hood looked up and saw more than 25 players and coaches staring back at her.

"My first reaction was, 'Wow, this is awesome,'" Hood said after the preseason meeting for intramural basketball coaches on March 5 at Semper Fit Headquarters.

Hood's enthusiasm was due to the unexpectedly large turnout of Marines and sailors looking to participate in the Commanding Gen-

eral's Cup Basketball League. Hood said 17 teams signed up for competition, which begins on March 17.

"We were expecting half of that," Hood said. "With so many Marines deployed, we didn't know what to expect. I can't tell you how excited we are."

"We're going to have a good season."

Hood's colleague, Frank Jakka, who is running the CG's Cup Softball League, was also shocked by the turnout later that day at the meeting for his sport.

"I was surprised," said Jakka, who reported 19 teams have signed up for the co-ed league, which also begins on March 17.

"Before the meeting I told Kerrie, 'I would be really happy with 12 teams.' And just a month ago, I was expecting eight. So this is great."

The meetings served to refresh coaches' memories on the rules of

each sport. Chuck Guy, head softball official, announced a new umpire's-judgment rule — which basically authorizes umpires to determine what base a runner would have made it to in the event of an injury on the basepaths.

"I can see that rule creating nothing but a problem," Guy said.

Two other rules being carried over from last year sparked some conversation. Guy said base runners will be allowed to overrun second and third base, encouraging players to avoid sliding. League organizers hope this will help cut down leg injuries.

Another rule prevents players

See Leagues, Page C5

Seventeen teams have signed up for the base intramural softball league.

JOHN RAIFSNIDER





Vista Pop Warner football, cheer sign-ups announced

Sign-ups for Vista Pop Warner football are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Lincoln Middle School. Registration for cheerleading will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school on March 22 and 29. Late registration will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at April 26 at the school. Children living on Camp Pendleton can register for any one of three teams in Vista, Oceanside and Fallbrook. For more information, call 945-0126 or log onto www.vistapopwarner.com

2003 CG Cup Calendar

FIRST HALF	Meeting	Start
Softball League	March 5	March 17
Basketball League	March 5	March 17
Skeet Tournament	March 7	March 12
Bike Road Race	March 8	March 8
Track Meet	April 2	April 2
Flag Football League	April 9	April 21
Devil Dog Duathlon	April 26	April 26
Golf Tournament	May 6	May 13
Swim Meet	May 9	May 9
4 Person Volleyball	June 4	June 4
SECOND HALF		
Tackle Football League	June 12	July 14
Racquetball Tournament	June 25	June 25
Soccer League	July 9	July 21
Billiards Tournament	July 22	July 22
Badminton Tournament	Aug. 5	Aug. 5
Talega Loop Run	Aug. 16	Aug. 16
3 on 3 Basketball	Aug. 26	Aug. 26
2 Person Volleyball	Sept. 4	Sept. 4
Half Marathon	Sept. 13	Sept. 13
Sailing Regatta	Sept. 18	Sept. 18
Over The Line	Oct. 1	Oct. 1
Horseshoe Tournament	Oct. 8	Oct. 8
Trap Tournament	Oct. 17	Oct. 22
Bench Press Contest	Nov. 12	Nov. 19
Horno Ridge Run	Nov. 15	Nov. 15

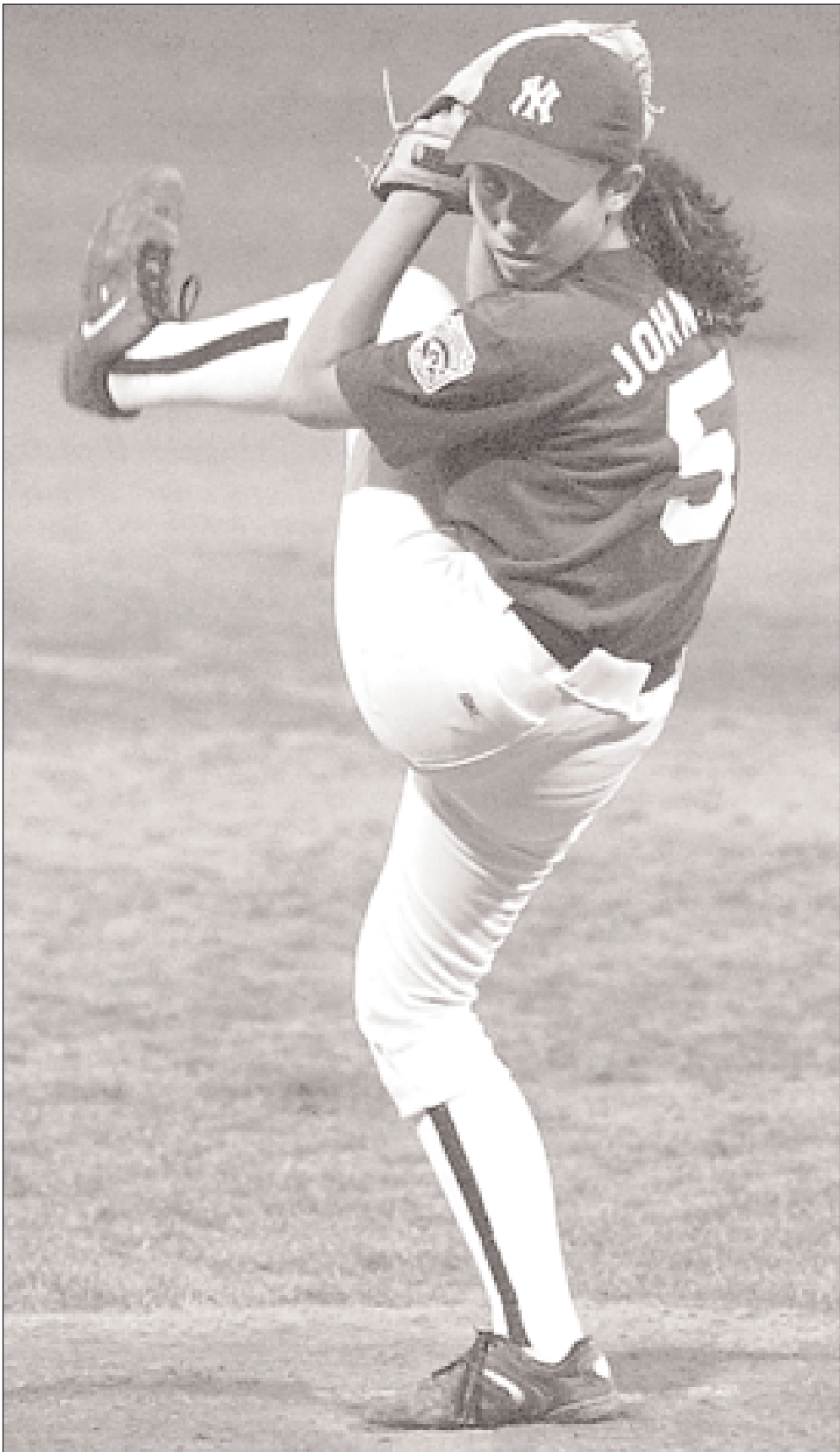
Help us out!

Have a suggestion for a sports story, especially a feature on someone who's made news that might make a good "Faces in the Crowd" entry? Call us at 725-9377, or fax your suggestion to 385-0053 or e-mail it to scout@pendleton.usmc.mil.

Civilians to hold bowling get-together

The Civilian Employees Welfare Recreation Association will hold 8- and 9-pin no tap bowling tournament March 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. here. The price is \$5 per person, which includes shoe rental and prizes. Call 725-2785 to RSVP.

Play ball!



JOHN RAIFSNIDER

Baseball is back and Camp Pendleton's Little League teams are in action again this Saturday. Call the Marine Corps Community Services' Youth Sports Office at 725-4188 for game times.

Sign-ups and tryouts

Equestrian: The Chaps-n-Breeches riding club at the Base Stables is looking for new members. For more information, call the Base Stables at 725-5094/5085 or e-mail chapsnbreeches@yahoo.com

Baseball: Tryouts for the Marine Corps baseball team will be held Mar. 22, 23, 29 and 30 at the 13 Area softball field. For more information contact Sgt. William Miller at 725-2939 or 430-0395

Youth track: The North Country Jaguars are looking for runners ages 7 to 17 to compete locally and nationally. For more information, log on to www.eteamz.com/nc-jaguars or e-mail Robert Schneck at jagdog3@hotmail.com

Triathlon: The Camp Pendleton Triathlon Team is seeking new

members. The club is open to all DOD personnel and their family members. Membership is free. For more information or directions visit www.camppendletontriteam.org.

Officials: The Camp Pendleton Officials Association is looking for members to officiate games at Camp Pendleton. No experience is necessary. Training is provided. For more information, call the following:
■ Soccer – Dutch Fleck, 295-4890.
■ Basketball - Matt Hoffman, 630-6973.
■ Softball - Chuck Guy, 728-0484.

More officials: The North County Basketball Officials are looking for new members to officiate basketball games throughout North County. Games are played the entire year. No experience necessary. Earn money while you learn. Training is provided by NCAA and veteran high school basketball officials. For more information, call Charles Washington, 941-1225.

Still more officials: The San Diego County Football Officials Association is recruiting new officials for the fall football season. SDCFOA provides officials to both public and private schools throughout the county and is the sole source of referees for all of the county's California Interscholastic Federation football play. For more information, call Charles Washington, 941-1225.

Scoreboard

CG's Cup				Cycling			
Standings through March 3		Division 2		CG's Cup Race		CG's Cup Race	
Division 1		Division 3		Military Results		Military Results	
MAG-39 204		SOI 194		Men 18-24		Men 18-24	
Hq&Spt. 120		I MHG 35		1. Robert Foster, MCTSSA, 1:41.29; 2. Chris Cichy, 5/11; 3. Miguel Guerrero, SOI.		1. Andy Hesterman, MAG-39, 1:11.53; 2. Kevin Farrell, RSU; 3. Ricardo Navarro, ACU-5.	
9th Comm. 51		Security 30		Men 25-29		Men 40-44	
HqBn. 27		MCAS 20		1. Gary Dawson, NavHosp, 1:14.04; 2. Jason Brayley, NavHosp; 3. Jeff Seavy, SOI.		1. Gary Strasmann, HqBn, 1:13.04; 2. German Fiesco, BABMC; 3. William Perry, NavHosp.	
Supply 10		Med. Bn. 15		Men 30-34		Men 45-49	
11th Marines 6		ACU-5 10		1. Brad Ellis, 3rd LAAD, 1:12.26; 2. Paul Allen,		1. David Bethel, SOI, 1:24.07	
TSB 4		Division 3		Men 50 and over		Men 50 and over	
7th Engineers 4		MCTSSA 192		1. Paul Beckhart, MHG, 1:29.49; 2. Edmundo Uy, MAG-39.		1. James Sullivan, 1/1, 1:18.17; 2. Clark Burley, 4th	
		WFTB 10		Clydesdale		Clydesdale	
						1. Rebecca Phillips, Supply, 1:34.18; 2. Grace Kelly, MAG-39.	
						Athena	
						1. Wally Trevan, ACU-5.	
						Mountain Bike	
						1. Jon Walker, ACU-5, 1:23.15; 2. John Love, SOI; Mark Tartenaar, I MEF.	

On Your Mark

Saturday	Sunday
Running	Running
• Palm Springs Kiwanis 5K/10K run/walk. Call Jerry Kramer at 320-9707 or 320-1341 or send an e-mail message to greg@kleinsports.com .	• Hot Pepper 10-mile run, 5K run/walk and kids fun run at Lake Hodges in Escondido. Call (858) 274-8898 for more information.
• Get your kicks on Route 56 5K run, Jump Rope one-miler and junior half-mile and one-mile run/walk. Contact events@strideamerica.com .	Down the road
• 22nd annual St. Patrick's Day 10K run and four-mile run/wal at Mission Bay Park. Call Kathy Loper Events at (619) 298-7400 for more information.	Running
	• March 23, The Morrow Institute Women Running Wild 5K run and walk, Ruth Hardy Park in Palm Springs. Call Greg Klein at 320-1341 for more information.

Grandstand

Friday	Saturday
Softball	Softball
• Iowa @ SDSU, 11:30 a.m.	• Eastern Kentucky @ SDSU, 9 a.m.
• Nevada @ SDSU, 2 p.m.	• Iowa @ SDSU, 2 p.m.
Tennis	Baseball
• Texas Christian Univ. @ SDSU, 2 p.m.	• Utah @ SDSU, 4 p.m.
Baseball	Soccer
• Utah @ SDSU, 6 p.m.	• Harrisburg @ Sockers, 7 p.m.





Bike

From Page C1

of 1 hour, 12 minutes, 26 seconds, more than 3-1/2 minutes behind Mike Morrill, the civilian who won the race. “But after Palomar Mountain (two weeks ago), this wasn’t anything at all.

“I was ready to keep going.”

Ellis and his teammate, Gray Dawson — a Naval Hospital employee who finished second in the 25-29 age division with a time of 1:14.04 — were all smiles as they chatted after completing the circuit, which topped out at approximately 500 feet at the halfway mark.

Both cyclists said their preparation together two weeks prior at Palomar Mountain helped them complete the ride with relative ease.

“We climbed Palomar Mountain and that was tough,” Dawson said. “We just had to keep going — it took like three hours.

“So we were ready for this.”

Both cyclists finished behind military winner Anthony Baker, who works in Coronado at the Naval Special Warfare Center.

Baker, 32, finished in 1:08.59, a mere five seconds off the pace. He considered the victory a good sign because he is hoping to compete

in the Armed Forces Triathlon Championships in June in Ventura County.

“I have a method to my madness,” Baker said. “I’ve been deployed for 500 of the last 700 days. But I’m not going to be deploying for a while, so I’m trying to build myself up.”

If Baker finishes in the top five in Ventura County, he will fly to Holland in July for International Council of Military Sports (CISM) championships. The way he performed against a mixed field of military and civilian competitors gives him reason for optimism.

“I’m really trying to become a better cyclist,” Baker said. “I feel like I’m a pretty gifted runner and I’m a decent swimmer, but I think I need the most work in cycling. So this was a good accomplishment.”

Baker edged Camp Pendleton’s Sean Easley by one-tenth of a second

“I have to give him credit — he’s a very aggressive cyclist,” Baker said of Easley, who finished second in the military division.

Morrill, the overall winner, finished in 1:08.54. Right behind him were civilians Ernie Sanchez (1:08.55) and Matthew Hall (1:08.56), who finished second and third, respectively.

“I’ve won this thing seven times in the last 10 years, and every time it’s a lot of fun,”

said Morrill, who trains by riding 250-300 miles every week in his hometown of San Clemente. “This is one of my favorite races of the year. I consider it a privilege to get to come out and ride on base.

“I just thank all the Marines for this event. They do a great job putting it on. This is really a privilege.”

The women’s champion was Beven Keen, who works at Marine Aircraft Group 16 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. She finished in 1:20.56. Heidi McKenna (Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity) finished second with a time of 1:28.17. Rebecca Phillips (Supply Battalion) was third in 1:34.18.

“It’s really exciting to finish first,” said Keen. “It feels good. I put a lot of hard work into this and it has really paid off.”

Above, Gary Dawson leads a pack of seven riders during Saturday’s Bike Road Race. Dawson, of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, finished second in the men’s 25-29 age group. Above right, Gray Schwei ambles through a turn near the finish of the 27-mile course.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL RAIFSNIDER



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Chaps-n-Breeches Club holds Fun-Day

■ Youth and adults compete in equestrian and rodeo events at Base Stables

LANCE CPL. JENN STEIMER
SCOUT STAFF

If horseback riding is your thing — but riding solo isn't — Camp Pendleton has a club for you.

Current and retired military members and their dependents can join Chaps-n-Breeches, a club that sponsors various equestrian and rodeo activities.

The club meets one Saturday a month to plan activities for the upcoming month. Activities include taking care of animals, barrel racing and pole bending competitions, plus horse jumping and halter shows, said Jan McGowan, the club's advertising chairwoman.

The club supports both English and Western riding styles, she added.

The club has approximately 40 members ranging in age from 5 to senior citizens, she said.

Members are encouraged to own a horse, but ownership is not required.

The Base Stables rents

horses for club activities.

Club dues are \$11 per year for individuals, \$18 for families.

Event fees are \$2 to \$3.

The club holds biannual horse show as fund-raisers. The shows are open to the public.

"The club is important because it promotes camaraderie between different types of riding and resources. It also gives people the chance to do what they enjoy doing," McGowan said.

For more information, call 725-5094/5085 or e-mail chapnbreeches@yahoo.com.

Fun-day results 17 and younger Walk/Trot Barrels

1. Emily McGowan (Kayley) 42.69 seconds; 2. MaKenna Bales (Squeak) 45.0; 3. Stetson Galloway (Kirby) 53.1

Walk/Trot Poles

1. Emily McGowan (Kayley) 48 seconds; 2. Fred Galloway (Kirby) 1:01.0; 3. MaKenna Bales (Squeak) 1:01.4.

Trot/Canter Poles

1. Grace Lara (Stockings) 35.7 seconds.

Gallop Barrels

1. Grace Lara (Stockings) 22.8 seconds

18 and older Walk/Trot Barrels

1. George Durgin (Big-D) 38.7; 2. Greg Rogers (Shadow), 45.98; 3. Holly Galloway (Dolly) & Terry Stephens (Feather) 1:10.2

Walk/Trot Poles

1. George Durgin (Big-D) 1:03.5 seconds; 2. Kadi Thingvall (Cole) 1:08.

Trot/Canter Barrels

1. Jodi Hettiger (Cole) 26.4 seconds; 2. Tina Roylance (Rocket) 30.9; 3. Virginia Mulvaney (Rocket) 33.1.

Adult Division Trot/Canter Poles

1. Jan McGowan, 34.9 seconds; 2. Val Williams (Sarii) 38.2; 3. Virginia Mulvaney (Rocket) 41.9.

Gallop Barrels

1. Jodi Hettiger (Cole) 23.9 seconds; 2. Dave Thompson (Moon) 35.4.



Tina Roylance, above, takes her horse Rocket through Gallop Barrels during the Feb. 22 Chaps-n-Breeches competition at the Base Stables. Below, Betsy Rogers and Shadow horse around during a break in the competition. Below left, Kadi Thingvall leads her horse, Coal, around while Kelson Thingvall sits back and enjoys the ride.



PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL.
JENN STEIMER





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RETAIL WEEKLY

Bowlers

From Page C1

Twenty-nine Palms and Okinawa, among others.

For most of the competitors, landing one of the top six spots this week and representing the Corps in the Armed Forces Championships is the goal.

“Everyone wants to be first, but it

really doesn’t matter, as long as you are in the top six,” Mabus said. “That’s the most important thing.”

Mabus says he can’t rely on experience alone. He’ll need to execute to move on, he said.

Nixon agrees.

“There are a lot of good bowlers here. It’s going to be interesting,” said Nixon, who regularly practices with the defending champion during lunch. “This is about pride and pres-

tige. There is a lot of thrash talking going on, so we all want to do well.”

Smith, who says his career best game is 289, figures many of his competitors will be able to handle the pressure that follows athletes in events like this.

“A lot of these guys have bowled (300), so this isn’t going to be anything for them,” Smith said. “They won’t feel the pressure that some other bowlers might.”

Mabus, who finished 12th at the Armed Forces Bowling Championships last year — and first among Marines — is the favorite because he has proved he can handle the pressure.

“If he bowls anywhere close to what he normally does, he’s a lock to finish in the top six,” said first-time All-Marine bowler Crosswhite. “But guys who are supposed to bowl a 250 can drop a 160 just like that. It

comes down to being in a zone.”

The top bowlers not only will have to be in a zone — they’ll need to stay there. The top 12 bowlers moved on to the finals Wednesday afternoon after 24 games of play that began Monday and concluded Wednesday morning.

The field will be whittled to the final six players by this afternoon after 12 more games, with the top six composite scorers moving on.

Preview

From Page C1

Nevin all but ends the Padres’ small hopes of contending this season. But there is still optimism surrounding the Friars because of the young rotation, which has four potential aces in Oliver Perez, Brian Lawrence, Adam Eaton and Jake Peavy. But without Nevin, the Friars’ lineup is one of the worst in the majors. Ryan Klesko and Mark Kotsay will have down years without Nevin protecting them.

5. Rockies

Colorado is shifting back to a power offense. The additions of Preston Wilson and Charles Johnson will help. But don’t be too excited about the Rockies young pitching core. Starters Denny Stark and Jason Jennings are good, but Coors Field will inevitably take its toll on

the staff.

N.L. Central

1. Astros

The Astros are always good, and that figures to be the case in 2003. The addition of Kent gives the club one of the fiercest lineups in the game. Teaming the former Giant with Lance Berkman and Jeff Bagwell creates one of the best 1-2-3 punches in baseball. The Astros also have some quality young arms. Watch out.

2. Cardinals

The top of the Cardinals’ rotation is set with Matt Morris, Woody Williams and Brett Tomko — the latter two are Padres castoffs. But the final two spots will be up for grabs this spring. The batting order is solid with Jim Edmonds, Scott Rolen, Albert Pujols and J.D. Drew. A very sound team from top to bottom.

3. Cubs

There isn’t a starting rota-

tion in the game with more upside than the Cubs. Kerry Wood and Mark Prior are flat-out nasty. Sammy Sosa will continue to hit home runs at a Hall-of-Fame clip. But will anyone else in the Cubs’ lineup contribute? Cub fans are hoping rookie Hee Seop Choi and Moises Alou will be the answer, protecting Sosa.

4. Reds

A team that lacks quality starting pitching shouldn’t deal its best hurler, like the Reds did Dessens. But the Reds have some decent talent, starting with Ken Griffey Jr. The former superstar needs to rebound, despite his unhappiness after the Reds tried to trade him this off-season to the Padres for Nevin. Adam Dunn and Austin Kearns are two players to build around.

5. Pirates

Other than Brian Giles, there isn’t much to be excited

about in Pittsburgh. Pirate fans will turn their attention to football by the middle of the summer, because the baseball team will be long out of contention.

6. Brewers

One of the worst teams in baseball resides in Milwaukee. Richie Sexson will inevitably hit some monster home runs, but the Brewers will be out of contention by May.

N.L. East

1. Phillies

Spending money doesn’t guarantee anything. But that didn’t deter the Phillies from spending serious coin this off-season. Stealing Kevin Millwood from the Braves was their best move in years. Jim Thome and David Bell, two big-money signings, might not live up to their huge contracts; but they certainly won’t hurt. Even before the wild off-season, this team wasn’t that far away. Guys

like Pat Burrell, Bobby Abreu, Jimmy Rollins and some very good young arms already made them a contender.

2. Braves

It’s probably not smart to bet against the Braves. But on paper, this looks like the year they drop the ball. The main reason: Tom Glavine, Millwood and Moss, who were a combined 48-25 last season, have been replaced with Russ Ortiz, Mike Hampton and Paul Byrd, who were 38-36. Although the division is up for grabs, don’t be surprised if John Smoltz and Chipper Jones find a way to keep the Braves in contention.

3. Mets

A lot has to go right for the Mets to win the division. Mo Vaughn, Roberto Alomar, Jeromy Burnitz and Roger Cedeño all have to rebound from disappointing seasons. Not likely. But Glavine will help solidify the rotation. This is probably

the most unpredictable team in the league.

4. Marlins

All off-season, the Marlins were trying to cut payroll. Then at the last minute, they sign Pudge Rodriguez. What gives? Now, just a few weeks into spring training, the club is once again talking about saving money by trading one of its best players, Mike Lowell. The Marlins, who are loaded with quality young arms, don’t seem to have any direction.

5. Expos

The Expos are said to be eyeing Portland, among other places, as a potential new home. This year, they will play some home games in Puerto Rico. That will help the squad remain in contention. If not, standout players Vladimir Guerrero and Jose Vidro might be dealt. The Padres would be wise to make a bid for either superstar.



JOHN RAIFSNIDER

Pendleton’s intramural basketball season tips off Monday and runs through the middle of May. Nineteen teams are in the league.

Leagues

From Page C1

from rounding the bases after a home run.

“If you’re getting your butt kicked, you don’t want to watch some guy prancing around the bases,” Guy said, instructing coaches to inform players that after a homer, they need to run only to first base.

Jakka, who is coordinating the league for the first time, reminded players that drinking alcohol during games is not allowed.

“If you do it, you’re done.

Your whole team is done,” he warned.

“I want everyone to follow the CG Cup rules,” Jakka said. “Obviously, I’m not going to be out spying on everyone, but drinking during games is prohibited.”

Marine Aircraft Group 39’s James Shepard, who attended both meetings and will likely coach a team in each sport, said he’ll encourage his Marines to stick to the no-alcohol policy.

“During the games, you just can’t do it,” said Shepard, who guided MAG to Camp Pendleton’s tackle football championship as a quarter-

back/coach. “I don’t have a problem with it after the game. But during the game, it’s not allowed.”

Shepard, whose team lost in the All-Base softball finals last year to Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base, said his team is rebuilding.

“Put it this way — we’ve only got one returning player,” Shepard said. “But we’ll still put together a good team.”

Randy “Red Blanket” Eckiwauda, who coached Assault

Amphibian School Battalion’s volleyball team, also attended both meetings. He noted the difference in support for softball and basketball, compared with volleyball, which only had six teams.

“There really is a lot better turnout for these sports than there was for volleyball,” said Eckiwauda, whose Gators lost in the CG’s Cup volleyball losers-bracket finals.

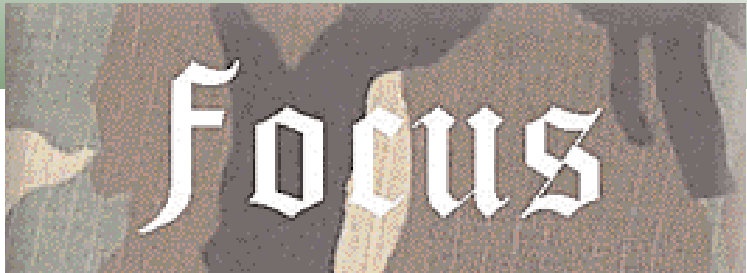
“It’s going to be fun. Hopefully everyone will be able to make their games.”

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Colors ... Cadence ...



Above: Gunnery Sgt. Mark S. Miller, drum major for Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, conducts the band in a short warm-up before its performance. Below: A Marine with the Drum and Bugle Corps marches through the band's complex opening routine.

Detachment
wows crowd
with lockstep
showmanship



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. MATTHEW S. RICHARDS
NEWS EDITOR

The crackle of rotating rifle butts smacking a white-gloved hand rang out above the hushed “oohs” and “aahs” of more than 1,000 awed spectators here Feb. 28 as the Silent Drill Platoon went through its precise paces, highlighting the annual performance of the Battle Color Detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

The detachment, consisting of more than 100 members constituting the Silent Drill Platoon, the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps Color Guard, rolled out its celebrated show for Marines, sailors, veterans, students and family members at the 22 Area Parade Deck.

The Drum and Bugle Corps marched through a complex routine, accented by glistening brass that pumped out

traditional and modern music, just before the Silent Drill Platoon took the stage. The platoon evoked a pristine Marine image while mesmerizing the crowd with rifles flying through the air and returning in synchronization to their operators’ deft, waiting hands.

“It is amazing to see how much discipline the band and the drill team have,” said William F. Hiltbrand, 85, one of the original Drum and Bugle Corps members, who attended this show. “All Marines should be required to see their performance at least once. They are what Marines represent — discipline.”

After the drill team’s flashy show, the Marine Corps Color Guard marched out the Battle Colors of the Marine Corps.

The 50 streamers and bands — decorated with palms, oak-leaf clusters and stars — commemorate the more than 400 awards and campaigns notched by the United States Marines.

The detachment’s goal is to present the perfect Marine image — one marked by stone-hard discipline and spotless uniforms.

“We get to go to many places that don’t see Marines that often, so they base their opinion on what they see in us,” said Sgt. Matt Britton, drillmaster and rifle inspector for the Silent Drill Platoon.

Even those accustomed to seeing Marines were rendered breathless by the extravagant display of M1 Garand rifles with bayonets spinning through the air.

“I loved the show and took all the pictures I could,” said 9-year-old Gabby Little, a student at San Onofre Elementary School.

With the specter of war looming, the detachment serves to reinforce America’s faith in the Marines, said Cpl. Michael McMillian, a member of the Silent Drill Platoon.

“It was definitely very motivating to see the best perform,” said Pfc. Charles L. Price, an aviation ordnance trainee with Marine Aircraft Group 39, who attended the performance.

Detachment Marines are selected from the Schools of Infantry here and at Camp Lejeune, N.C. They’re chosen to try out based on interviews conducted by Barracks personnel. This year, only 18 of the original 40 chosen qualified for the 24-man team which includes some holdovers from last year, Britton said.

Once selected, Marines are assigned to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., to serve a two-year ceremonial tour. Beyond their ceremonial duties, the Marines collaterally train in the field as infantrymen.

The Silent Drill Platoon works hard to uphold its lofty reputation. The four-month extensive training lasts from November through February.

“There is a lot of dedicated work and practice that has to go into this job, because everything about it is very hard,” Britton said.

But the rewards are worth the hard work, according to McMillian.

It’s “everything I hoped it would be,” McMillian said.



Clockwise: The Silent Drill Platoon stands with unwavering discipline as the Marine Corps Color Guard passes by. A Silent Drill Platoon member performs a rifle spin. At the conclusion of the show, the Drum and Bugle Corps marches off the parade deck in traditional rank and file.



Captivating!



Defenders of Freedom Parade honors OIF veterans. See Page D1.



Winner, Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson Award, Commercial-Enterprise Newspaper (2001-02)

Miramar blackened; residents unscathed

■ Structures left intact by 200,000-acre Cedar Fire that charred most of the San Diego-area installation

FROM STAFF AND MARINE CORPS NEWS REPORTS
MIRAMAR STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR — Most of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar went up in flames early this week — yet air station firefighters kept personnel, residents and aircraft safe from San Diego County’s largest wildfire.

The Cedar Fire started in Ramona and had burned more than 200,000 acres by Tuesday. That total included 19,000 acres of the 23,000-acre military installation, according to 2nd Lt. Carolyn Nelson, a public affairs officer at the air station.

But the scorched areas on the air station are virtually uninhabited. The fire’s only fallout on base was damage to a handful of vehicles belonging to Marine Corps Reserve units, she said.

“It burned everything but the flight line,” Nelson said. “(Firefighters) kept it off the north side of the base, which is what we inhabit.”

She said 200 emergency personnel responded to the fire, including crash, fire and rescue crews from the air station.

Military families at the air station were given the

See Miramar, Page A6

Pendleton welcomes evacuees

CPL. MATTHEW S. RICHARDS
NEWS EDITOR

Lance Cpl. John B. Baxter wants the simple things in life for his family of five. Food to fill their bellies. A warm place to sleep. Somewhere to call home.

It’s just, right now, he doesn’t know if the wildfires that swept through Southern California left him with one. Home, for now, is Camp Pendleton’s Del Mar Bachelor Officers’ Quarters.” I just want to go back home,” Baxter said.

The radio operator with 5th Marine Regiment evacuated his home near Valley Center after the Paradise Fire closed in on his neighborhood. He gathered up his wife, whom he married just one month ago, and his children and sought refuge on Camp Pendleton Monday.

Baxter wasn’t the only



BAXTER

See Evacuees, Page A6

DoD lends hand in California wildfire fight

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Firefighting equipment from the Department of Defense is supporting requests from California to battle area wildfires, Pentagon officials said in a briefing Tuesday.

Camp Pendleton Fire Department deployed a 21-man task force and five engines to combat the Paradise Fire. Four firefighters and one engine were sent to San Bernardino.

Medical specialists were sent to both fires as well.

Two modular airborne firefighting systems began operations yesterday, and more will follow. The National Interagency Fire Center requested the firefighting systems from DoD. The systems fit inside C-130 aircraft and can spread water or flame retardant over an area 60 feet wide by a quarter mile long.

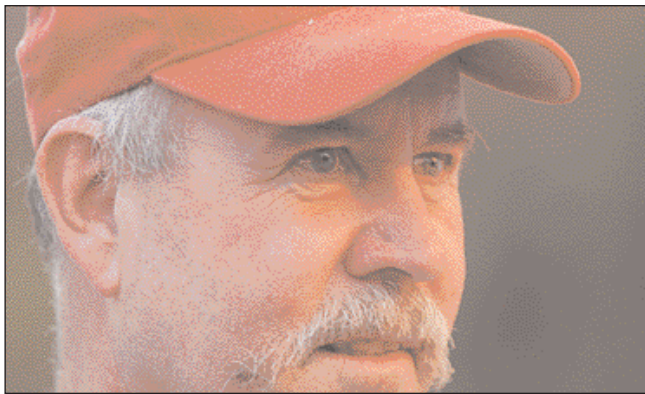
Each unit carries 2,750 to 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in five 500-gallon interconnected tanks, according to the center.

California Air National Guard crews began flying missions with the systems Monday. The Air Force Reserve’s 302nd Wing from Colorado Springs, Colo., also is flying missions.

Aircraft from the Wyoming Air National Guard’s 153rd Air Wing and the North Carolina Guard’s 145th Air Wing are on their way to the region with four more of the modular systems.

DoD officials stressed they are ready to provide additional support as required. Local commanders have the authority to provide immediate

See DoD, Page A6



SGT. L.A. SALINAS

“I’ve got a tin roof and asbestos shingles, so, I don’t think there’s much of a risk of the house burning down.”

Paul Crider
De Luz Resident



LANCE CPL. SAMUEL BARD VALLIERE

Fire rages in De Luz, just north of Camp Pendleton. The fire started in the Zulu Impact Area on Oct. 21 and was contained Tuesday. It scorched more than 8,500 acres.

The Big One

■ Pendleton and outlying communities relatively unscathed by fire that’s blackened more than 8,500 acres

SGT. L.A. SALINAS
SCOUT STAFF

A brush fire that erupted aboard base, tore through military training areas and threatened off-base homeowners in De Luz was 100 percent contained Tuesday.

The Roblar II Fire, the first in what became a series of wildfires still scorching large swaths of the San Diego area early Wednesday, left the base and surrounding areas relatively unscathed compared with a devastating toll elsewhere.

As of Tuesday, the Roblar II Fire had burned 8,592 acres but had damaged no structures, according to Scott Simpson, a Camp Pendleton fire inspector.

“Seven firefighters were treated for minor injuries,” Simpson said. “Two were treated for second-degree burns.”

In contrast, fires elsewhere in San Diego County left 12 people dead, according to the Medical Examiner’s Office of San Diego. The fires also destroyed 1,100 homes and blackened more than 375,000 acres, according to Adriana Uribe of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Office.

The Roblar II Fire started in the Zulu Impact Area aboard base Oct. 21. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Like fires elsewhere in the region, the Roblar II Fire was fueled by parched brush, according to Simpson. Santa Ana winds pushed the fire back toward uninhabited areas of

Camp Pendleton, helping firefighters make progress against roaring, erratic flames that kept them on their heels and constantly guessing.

Locally, a unified command was established with the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry, including strike teams from multiple agencies, to combat the fire on base.

The stepped-up response was needed to corral a fire that has chewed up an average of more than 1,100 acres daily.

“We had a brush fire break out, and it grew very large, very rapidly,” Simpson said.

The fire’s advance prompted a voluntary evacuation advisory issued to De Luz residents.

On base, firefighters made every effort to ensure the fire burned only uninhabited areas, said Ben Keasler, head of Environmental Planning Division for Environmental Security on Camp Pendleton.

“The overall priority of effort by all involved was the protection of life and property of both on- and off-base residents and tenant organizations,” said Lt. Col. Tom Stent, deputy assistant chief of staff for Security and Emergency Services here.

“Given the focus, in concert with other existing fire breaks specifically positioned to protect housings and built-up areas ... base residents, tenants and employees and structures were never really threatened and were largely able to conduct their daily routine,” Stent said.

A total of 1,346 emergency personnel responded to the fire from as far away as Nevada and Arizona.

“I’m really appreciative for all the these firefighters’ hard work and

See Fire, Page A6



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

Firefighting aircraft arrived at Pendleton Oct. 21 to battle the Roblar II Fire.

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Pendleton MEU polices the beat in southern Iraq

■ Thirteenth MEU Marines back on patrol with Iraqi police in Umm Qasr

SGT. MARK P. LEDESMA
13TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
(SPECIAL OPERATIONS CAPABLE)

UMM QASR, Iraq — Marines from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) are letting residents in southern Iraq know there's a new sheriff in town.

Marines of Company C, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment conducted foot and vehicle patrols along the town of Umm Qasr during the 13th MEU's participation in Operation Sweeney. According to 2nd Lt. Eric B. Williams, 3rd Platoon commander, the patrols were set up to assist town authorities. "We're basically here as a show of force to give the people confidence that the coalition forces are out here taking care of them," Williams said. "It's just a peace of mind for them to know that we're out here trying to take care of business."

The patrols also allowed the local community to get to know the Marines so they feel comfortable with them. Williams explained the patrols went well. "The people are happy to see us doing our patrols," Williams said. "They have been willing to give us information whenever we need it. The people are just glad we're here." The Marines conducted their patrols with the help of the British Army's Light Dragoons and the local Iraqi police force. "We work with (the Iraqi po-

"For a lot of us, this was our first chance to really get out and use the skills that we've been taught throughout our training cycle."

Cpl. David S. Barrett
Infantryman

lice) on foot patrols and vehicle checkpoints," Williams said. "They're happy that we're here," he added. "It gives them a bit more confidence whenever we're around. We're trying to instill in them that they need to show a presence out in town." The patrols also allowed the Marines to use the skills for which they've spent months training. "The patrols are exciting," said Cpl. David S. Barrett, 23, of 3rd Platoon. "For a lot of us, this was our first chance to really get out and use the skills that we've been taught throughout our training cycle."

Williams said his Marines conducted themselves well during the patrols. "They are adapting to the situation," Williams said. "Every once in while, you would hear celebratory gunfire. The Marines do not get spooked or overreact. They remain calm and pay attention to what they are supposed to be doing." Williams said he hopes the local police will emulate the Marines when it's time to handle the patrols themselves. MEU Marines landed in southern Iraq earlier this month to enhance security and stem rampant oil smuggling.

Firefighters find refuge at Pendleton's Lake O'Neill campsites



LANCE CPL. SAMUEL BARD VALLIERE

LANCE CPL. SAMUEL BARD VALLIERE
SCOUT STAFF

At the end of a long, hot day they came riding in. They're firefighters off the line. They're tired, dirty and smell of soot. Some were young; others were older with white mustaches turned gray from ash. Tired, but not beaten, they made their way to the small shelters they are calling home. This is Tent City, Lake O'Neill — home to firefighters from southern California and Arizona who came to fight Camp Pendleton's wildfire. The small waterfront campground that usually serves as a getaway from Marines served as a respite for firefighters. It's a place to sleep a few hours before they clamored back up rugged hills to beat back flames. Firefighter Arlin Cravins, with the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, says he enjoyed staying at the fire camps for up to two weeks at a time. It wasn't for a relaxed, kicked-back atmosphere, but every week he lived here, he's fighting fires with his crew. "It's the sense of working as a team and accomplishing a mission that motivates us," Cravins said. "There is a strong sense of camaraderie. Unlike a lot of jobs, you have a fire and a clear mission to suppress it and to do so without injuries. Eventually we will win the war against an individual fire."

Despite the occupation, it was business as usual at the lake. According to Chris Fennell, a staff member at the lake, the large amount of firefighters inhabiting its premises did not discourage people from visiting the lake. "All the people that were scheduled to stay where the firefighters were located were relocated," she said. "We appreciate the firefighters help." Downtime came seldom for the heat-weary firefighters. The average day consisted of a 16-hour shift. The eight hours in between was filled with preparations for the next day before finally grabbing a couple hours' sleep. "There is not much time at camp," said Philip Cox, a firefighter from Arizona's Chino Valley Fire District. "We'll get off of a shift, fuel up, clean up and get ready for the next day. There's not really any downtime or social time." Camping for the firefighters isn't a pastime. It's a way of life. "There was no real recreation time when you fit in eating and showering," Cravins said. "The few things you do is read the paper or get a cup of coffee or grab a smoke." According to Cravins, the only drawback to staying at a fire camp is missing out on family time. "I'm missing my wife and grandkids and children," he said, puffing on his pipe. "It's more than just this fire. You miss a lot." E-mail Lance Cpl. Valliere at: ValliereSB@pendleton.usmc.mil

Students wired to a world of MCI, distance and computer learning

LANCE CPL. JENN STEIMER
SCOUT STAFF

Earning a college degree, even completing Marine Corps Institute courses, is only mouse clicks and keystrokes away. Marines have an amazing source of knowledge and useful information at any of 10 Learning Resource Centers on Camp Pendleton. Using the centers is free and promises to make higher education more compatible with the busy schedules of Marines and their families. There are 10 LRCs on base, each equipped with 20 networked computers, to be used by active duty and

reserve military, their family members and Department of Defense employees. The classrooms serve a variety of purposes, but their primary mission is to aid education. "The computers are equipped with more than 600 courses which can be worked on and completed from any LRC in the Marine Corps," said Ted Wilson, the Distance Learning coordinator on base. "They mainly come in to work on MCIs online and to do research," said Ana Jones, the 14 Area LRC monitor. Jones said LRCs are an efficient way to complete MCIs, a curriculum that helps Marines earn points toward promotion. "It is very useful for them because if they want to do MCIs on-

line, they don't have to order it and have to wait for them to be shipped," she said. "They can show up one weekend to work on them and take the exam. I can tell them their score right away and they can print off a certificate." Jones added that completion certificates can be turned in to unit training noncommissioned officers. Once a Marine has taken an MCI online, the score is automatically recorded to their personal file within 48 hours. "This is instrumental in promotions because it substantially beats the traditional method by automatically updating the composite scores, increasing their chances of getting promoted above their

peers," Wilson said. Additionally, if Marines start MCIs before a deployment, they can pick up where they left off because the program bookmarks individual progress, he added. Another use for LRCs is online college work. "They can access the Internet to do research or other work," Jones said. "Staff (noncommissioned officers) may even call in and request a two-hour block of 10 computers for a training period." Jones said the training blocks need to be work-related. Otherwise, users have a lot of flexibility. "With the exception of personal e-mail, the computers may be used for

just about anything," Wilson said. "And they are free to everyone, except they require your time." Most of the resources used at LRCs are accessible from any computer in the world through the Web site www.marinenet.usmc.mil. Plans call for the addition of 18 deployable LRCs, Wilson said. The centers will consist of 20 laptops and one server per set. They will be available for Marine expeditionary units to check out for deployment. LRCs are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. They're located in Buildings 14125, 210725, 22181, 31604, 33524, 41342, 430406, 520512, 53523 and 62330. E-mail Lance Cpl. Steimer at: SteimerJL@pendleton.usmc.mil.

Pendleton Points

Submissions for Pendleton Points must be received by Monday at 4 p.m. to make that week's paper. Submissions can be brought to Building 1160, Room 113; faxed to 385-0053; or e-mailed to scout@pendleton.usmc.mil.

Monitors to pay visit to officers

Monitors with the Manpower Management Officer Assignment West Coast Road Show will be traveling to Camp Pendleton today, tomorrow and Monday through Wednesday. The I Marine Expeditionary Force G-1 personnel office will handle all appointments for Camp

Pendleton officers, and all others that may need an appointment during the timeframe in which the monitors are at Camp Pendleton. Contact the I MEF personnel office via e-mail at companygrade@I-MEF.usmc.mil for company grade officers, fieldgrade@I-MEF.usmc.mil for field grade officers, and colonels@I-MEF.usmc.mil for colonels. Officers should submit appointment requests to the designated e-mail address.

Preretirement seminar slated

A preretirement seminar will unfold here Monday

through Nov. 6 for service members with 25 years or more of military service and expect to retire within two years. The seminar, sponsored by the assistant chief of staff for Marine Corps Community Services, will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Civilian attire is recommended. Reservations are required and can be made by calling Val Valentine at 725-6207.

Wilcox Range to host shooting event

Military shooters are invited to take part in the inaugural Creedmoor Cup Match Nov. 12 through 16 at Wilcox Range. Top-notch match and service rifle shooters from around the country plan to take part, according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dennis DeMille, the match organizer. Pistol competition also will be held. Prize money will be at stake in all categories. The range will provide scopes, shooting jackets, stools and gloves to service members on a first-come, first-served basis, DeMille said. They must provide their own guns and ammunition. Stock M-16s using stock ammunition are acceptable. Marine Corps Order 3591.2J authorizes reimbursement of entry fees for Marines.

DeMille, assisted by the Army Shooting Team, will conduct a clinic on Nov. 12. For more information on the tournament, call the Santa Margarita Gun Club or visit www.creedmoorsports.com.

1st MarDiv book orders to be taken

Orders are now being taken for the official 1st Marine Division Campaign Book for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The high-quality book costs \$22, which includes shipping and handling. The 12-inch by 12-inch hard-covered book is 208 pages and contains nearly 300 full-color photos. Call (800) 323-0578 or visit www.taylorcruisebook.com to place your order today. Orders must be received by Nov. 30 and books will be delivered during the holiday season. Please call (800) 323-0578 with any questions.

USMC birthday meals

This year a Marine Corps birthday meal will be served in all Marine Corps Base mess halls on Nov. 7. Government employees, military families and civilians are authorized to drop by the mess hall for the meal. If area commanders desire the birthday meal to be served on a different day due to operational commitments or liberty, please contact Debbie Smith, Contract-

ing Officers Representative for the West Coast Regional Garrison. There will be lobster for the Birthday Meal on Nov. 12. All military meal prices for the meal is \$5.25. Food Service Contact at 725-8044.

Veterans Day celebration

Veterans are invited to come out to Oceanside on Veterans Day Nov. 11. The ceremony kicks off at 10 a.m. in the Oceanside Band Shell at the beach. Parking is free. For more information call Jerry Stapp at (760) 945-0618.

Cub Scouts needed

Camp Pendleton Cub Scouts of Pack 789 is looking for a few good boys of their own. Boys age 7 to 9 are encouraged to join Cub Scouts. Several positions for vital adult volunteers are also open. This promises to be a great year of Cub Scout activities aimed to provide personal growth for the boys. Look for the Boos of 789 conducting their popcorn fundraiser in front of the Mainside Country Store or log on to www.pack789.net or contact William C. Graham at 754-1639.

San Mateo Road construction

Roadwork on San Mateo Road could cause traffic de-

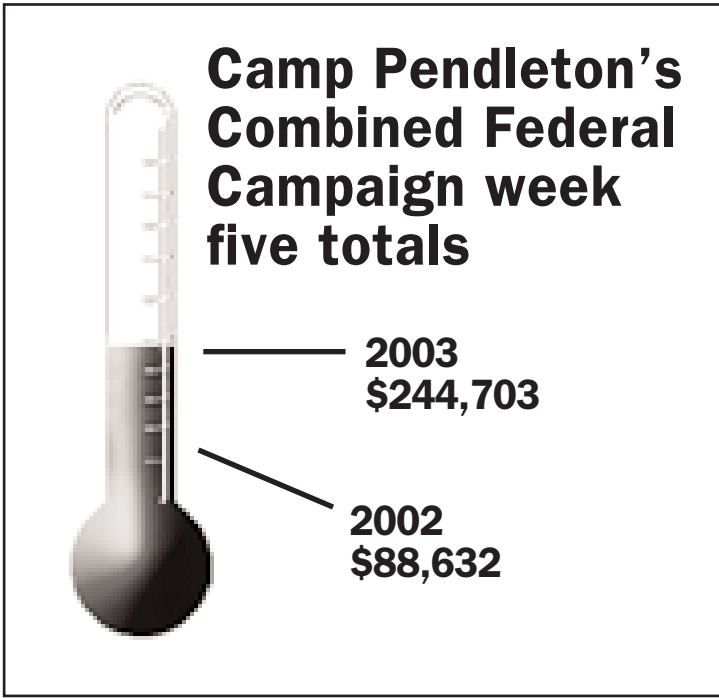
lays from Monday through Jan. 23, 2004, the base Facilities Support Contracts Office announced this week. The work will start one and a half miles south of Camp San Mateo and will end at Camp Telaga. One lane will be always open for through traffic. However, some delays might be experienced during the road pulverization and repaving. For more information please call Nate Cervantes at 725-2527.

Vetern welcome to an open form

Join Sen. Bill Morrow and the City of Vista Senior Services for an open forum on veterans' affairs. The event will be on Nov. 6, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Brengle/McClellan Senior Center 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. For more information or to reserve your seat call 760-434-7930.

Marine Corps Birthday Pageant

The Marines of Camp Pendleton commemorate the birthday of our Corps. The Marine Corps Birthday Pageant is an annual event hosted by the Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and Commanding General, Marine Corps Base. The pageant is a tribute to the Marines and sailors past and present who have served in and with the Marines Corps



Admin responds to commentary

Admin caters to Corps, not just customer

After reading the article “Banker’s hours plague Corps’ customer support,” I understand Staff Sgt. Lisbon’s frustration with administration’s ability to support all too well. I gruel over it daily in order to provide the best service to commands we support.

Staff Sgt. Lisbon kicked a beehive over within the admin community and insulted hard-working and dedicated Marines. What’s the real problem though? Isn’t it that Marines are tired of dealing with admin shops and prefer doing business a better way? Why can’t admin be like Navy Federal? Why can’t Marines use that fancy computer chip ID card as their digital record? I believe Marines are fed up with our processes.

Be advised I (we) hear you. This isn’t a leadership problem. It’s an organization problem. Administrators strive to make a difference by maximizing our outdated processes and completing the mission — no matter how great. Complete 4,500 audits before deploying: done. Thousands of pay and entitlement changes: done. Maintain personnel accountability throughout the war: done. This isn’t enough, though, and we need to improve to keep up.

What do we do? Quite honestly, Staff Sgt. Lisbon’s suggestions are Band-Aids at best. I know because many admin offices that already provide those services still receive complaints. I believe Marines are realizing admin shops haven’t kept up with automation like businesses and are frustrated. They want faster service and quality support.

There is hope because administration is improving slowly, so be patient. Our service records are thinner with the removal of pages that were automated and the Marine On-Line Web site made it possible for Marines to update some of their information.

I encourage all Marines to use this Web site because Marine On-Line and civilians most likely will be your admin support in the future.

Think I’m kidding? Almost immediately upon my return from Operation Iraqi Freedom, surveys were sent out soliciting opinions about consolidating to an Installation Personnel Administrative Center here.

Also, having a small percentage of administrators deployed caught the attention of manpower experts looking to make reductions. It is my sincere hope that processes are improved prior to implementing further reductions or consolidation.

If they are not, easy check-out sheets will be the least of a Marine’s worries. Getting a 60-year-old GS-4 clerk to find an service record book within IPAC’s 30,000 others will be.

Until these changes and civilians arrive, I recommend any Marine who isn’t satisfied with their admin shop professionally express complaints with the admin chief or personnel officer. Like myself, they appreciate your feedback and bend over backward to assist you. Also, while you’re walking that mile to your admin shop, understand we are Marines who are expected to participate in humps, morning physical training, and other command-driven events.

The administrators I took to Iraq from 5th Marines performed superbly under the most austere conditions, performing infantry tasks with dedication and enthusiasm. I am proud of their accomplishments and know they wouldn’t have been successful without training hard like their infantry counterparts. Think again about the sentence, “Customer service isn’t about

what’s best for your shop, it’s about what’s best for your customers.” Administrators do what’s best for the Corps — not just for the customer.

**Chief Warrant Officer 2
John E. Johnson**
personnel officer
Marine Aircraft Group 39 CPAC

Editor’s note: Marines can access their administrative information at www.mol.usmc.mil

Admin doing its best amid challenges

Although there might be an underlying reason why you feel that admin is not quite up to par, rest assured that every administrator is trying to do their best to ensure quality customer service to all our Marines.

Administration is an ever-changing entity. Personnel shortages, system and and procedural changes have complicated the everyday business administrators carry out.

The question to ask is, “What can Marines do to make sure that their records are correct?” With the implementation of Marine On Line, Marines can now look at their own records and even change information. So when does a Marine come into admin? Mostly as a last resort. Their emergency constitutes an emergency on the administrator’s part.

You should not compare administrators in the Marine Corps to the civilian sector either. You will find out that our administrators do far more. Like all Marines, administrators are warriors first and often integrate with the mission of the command.

The hour and a half of chow? Most Marines do a variety of things during their chow break; however, I do not think that admin is one of them. Again, whose emergency is it and why?

I challenge you to take a look at what administrators deal with to get entitlements correct, training conducted and so many other things that contribute to mission accomplishment and customer service. You will find admin shops with posted phone watch during chow that can take care of a Marine, field days commencing just like any other shop that can still take care of a Marine, a “traffic controller” that can direct a Marine to the proper section, and a check-in sheet that is direct and to the point.

Oh, and about parking spaces, let us just say that not all administrators are fortunate to have the luxury of having a parking space. None of the personnel officers at our command have one, and neither do our Marines.

**Warrant Officer
Pedro Hernandez**
MAG-39 service record
book officer-in-charge

Admin recommendations sound; no offense taken

Regarding Staff Sgt. Lisbon’s Oct. 16 commentary, “Banker’s hours plaguing”

I am going to agree with everything he said on principle alone.

I have read the commentary at least 10 times, and nowhere in it does he specifically mention my admin shop or any others for that matter. The reality is, like it or not, some of our admin sections have the characteristics he is talking about.

The commentary points to all customer-service-related sections, none of which is perfect. To deny this is both self-righteous and goes against the Marine Corps principle of seeking con-

stant improvement.

We have all received advice at one time or another to read and “take out what applies to you — forget the rest.” His recommendations were, for the most part, sound! When I read his article, I did not take offense. I took action to ensure “my house” did not fit the description. I humbly recommend you do the same and move onto the things that are important to commanders, Marines and family members.

On a final note, if someone thinks they have customer service that has no room for improvement, give us your contact information — we would all like to visit.

**Chief Warrant Officer 3
Steve Wallace**
director, Consolidated
Personal Admin Center
MWSG-37/MACG-38

Criticism dicey if you’ve never done the job

In response to the Oct. 16 commentary, “Bankers hours plague Corps’ customer support”:

I have more than 21 years of experience in the admin field. Anyone who takes pride in what they do could only expect a small uprising of the masses after reading the commentary. I, too, did not personally agree with it.

Administration is not unlike other service support specialties — it’s less glamorous than the combat arms. As long as everything is going great you rarely get a ‘great job,’ ‘thanks,’ or even ‘keep up the good work.’ Let just one miscue out of the hundreds or even thousands of details that support elements require take place and, well, we all know what happens. As administrators we have learned to deal with that, and yet we continue to provide the best possible support available.

I don’t think any job in the Marines Corps should be considered easy, not so easy anyway that it could be left to those that do not perform it to condemn it. It just seems too easy to point the finger than to lend a hand.

One of the first things I instill in the Marines who work for me is customer service, that we exist to provide a service that you can be proud of.

Perhaps the flap over Staff Sgt. Lisbon’s commentary is an issue of intent versus impact. Maybe he was trying to initiate customer service better than he may have experienced. But the commentary was viewed more as an attack on the job many of us take immense pride in doing and was absolutely a morale buster for those young Marines who work long hours, deploy like everyone else, train like everyone else and may not be so thick-skinned.

I was also a little disappointed in a few of my counterparts, who instead of writing a commentary stating their point, they chose to fire off e-mails that made it throughout the entire Marine Corps in less than 48 hours. What was the point? If we are doing a good job, then we should never feel that we have to defend our work. To my fellow administrators, we will continue to hold our heads up and do what we do best: being Marines.

To all those who read the subject commentary and may have formed an opinion based on the comments, I ask that you remember that every job always seems a little easier until you have to do it.

When all is said and done, we will remain ‘One team, one fight!’

Master Sgt. Kara L. Morin
Manpower chief
MCB Camp Pendleton

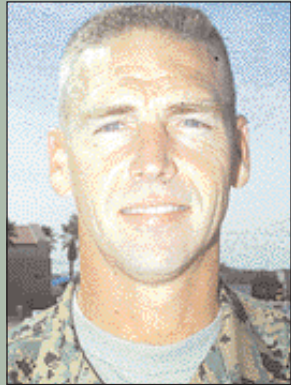
Scouting Around

“What are you doing to further your education?”

“I’ve been attending college intermittently since I’ve been in and have full attention of completing my degree for business in two years.”



Gunnery Sgt. Mike A. Ruth
1st Marine Division



Master Sgt. Patrick G. Korsmo
I Marine Expeditionary Force

“Right now I am attending Central Texas College night classes, and I am one class away from my Associates degree in General Education.”



Gunnery Sgt. Dean R. Doolittle
1st Marine Division



Cpl. Johnny M. Brown
1st Force Service
Support Group

“I am in Palomar right now and planning on transferring to UCLA.”



Cpl. Brain A. John
1st Force Service
Support Group



Cpl. Bobbie A. Thompson
1st Force Service
Support Group

“I am staying in the Marine Corps but I want to get a degree in general studies to write books.”

The Scout

I Marine Expeditionary Force	Marine Corps Base
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This week in Marine Corps history

■ Oct. 31, 1955 – Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, who earned five Navy Crosses, retired as a lieutenant general.

■ Nov. 1, 1956 – The 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment helped evacuate Americans from Alexandria, Egypt.

■ Nov. 3, 1943 – A detachment of the 3rd Raider Battalion occupied Torokina Island, Solomon Islands, in support operations at Bougainville.

■ Nov. 4, 1976 – Col. Katherine Towle became the first director of women Marines as regulars and not reservists.

■ Nov. 5, 1901 – Marines participated in the Battle of Sohotan River, Samar, during the Philippine Insurrection. Also on this date, Marines under Maj S. D. Butler captured the stronghold at Fort Capois, Haiti.

Source: Marine Corps Association's annual calendar

Second Front

A-4 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2003

THE SCOUT

A key asset to saving houses and lives, firefighting aircraft drop fire retardant over De Luz Canyon Oct. 23. Such efforts helped the multi-agency teams keep the Roblar II Fire from burning nearby homes in De Luz and Fallbrook.



LANCE CPL. SAMUEL BARD VALLIERE

De Luz residents wait out fickle Pendleton fire

■ Rural homeowners near Camp Pendlton threatened by flames mull options as fires elsewhere devastate SoCal communities

SGT. L.A. SALINAS
SCOUT STAFF

Sue Mackenzie chose the area around De Luz to retire because "it is so gorgeous." On Oct. 23, she sat at the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Center, waiting on updates to see how far the fire was willing to push her out of that opinion.

Mackenzie is no stranger to the wrath of wildfires. She recalled a past fire that threatened her home. It was "very frightening, the worst day I had ever seen," she said.

Mackenzie was just one of hundreds of families in the De Luz community outside of Camp Pendleton watching as 100-foot-high flames raced up hillsides, devouring dry brush and tinder late last week.

But by early Sunday morning, De Luz residents weren't as bad off as some of their San Diego County neighbors. Many were ordered to evacuate as fires ravaged the region and claimed 12 lives as of Wednesday, according to the Medical Examiners Office of San Diego.

The Camp Pendleton fire, sparked last week on a training range, so far has been less harmful sending only ash across area communities. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Mackenzie said she appreciated the Marines' quick response to battling back the fire. She pinned her hopes of saving her home on the base's resolve to containing the flames.

"I have to say, all the neighbors support the Marines 100 percent," Mackenzie said. "This community is rock-solid behind Marines."

As she sat in the shelter, her husband toiled as a volunteer firefighter with De Luz Fire Department. His unit specializes in structure

protection, in case the fire's thirst for more carnage spreads to surrounding buildings and homes.

Paul Crider has lived in De Luz for three years. His is a family home, passed from generation to generation for 56 years.

Firefighters parked a large red truck in his driveway and asked him if he wanted to voluntarily evacuate.

"I appreciate it, but I've got a hose," Crider told the firefighters. "If the fire gets close, I'll move my car and hose down the house."

Crider was confident the aging structure was safe from the approaching flames.

"I've got a tin roof and asbestos shingles, so I don't think there's much of a risk of the house burning down," he said.

Firefighters from the Cleveland National Forest know the fire's tempestuous nature. They routinely battle flames on the front lines and see it as an enemy and an ally.

"It's like a dragon that has a mind of its own," said Kevin Banderboom, firefighter with Engine 22, Cleveland National Forest. "No two fires are the same. When you look at pictures, it looks like a monster — angry and hungry."

The firefighters use this "hunger" against the fire — a process known as "back-burning," according to Banderboom. Dry brush is lit in a controlled environment to limit the fuel on which a fire feeds.

The technique gives the fire a dose of its own medicine, Banderboom explained, "a way to fight fire with fire."

Still, the fire often lived by its own mind. Sometimes it bent to the firefighters' will. Other times, it exploited every weakness.

The heat melted cell phones and cameras as embers popped from the fire, turning the green pants firefighters wear a brownish color.

"Fire is bipolar," said Josh Stark, firefighter with Engine 22. "One minute it's happy, creeping around. The next minute, evil."

E-mail Sgt. Salinas at: SalinasLA@pendleton.usmc.mil.



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

Michelle Martin, 35, of Reno, Nev. looks back as flames rage in Roblar Canyon Oct. 23. It would be four more days before the fire was contained.



PFC. J.C. GUIBORD

(Above) Captain Montel Tremain, from Cariso Hotshots Fire Department, watches his firefighters burn part of a canyon. (Far right) black smoke shrouds a crisp bush that once fueled 100-foot-high flames. (Right) Arizona firefighter Bill Hurley, 41, of Corona De Tucson, arrived at the Roblar II Fire with other firefighters from his station Oct. 22. Hurley has been a fireman for four years. He and his fellow firefighters said they do this job because "when you actually save life or property, it makes it all worth it."



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

Firefighters flee angry burning beast

GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI
PHOTO EDITOR

"Fire tornados."

That's how one firefighter described 100-foot-tall flames that roared up a canyon wall Oct. 23 and were "throwing trees through the air" like twigs. The flames forced firefighters from Camp Pendleton and elsewhere to drop their gear and "bug out" from their defensive position.

Teamed in a rough section of Roblar Canyon with crews from Arizona's Corona De Tucson station, firefighters from the School of Infantry Station narrowly escaped the typhoon of flames.

The fire consumed a brush-laden part of the base "that hasn't burned in years" and was "ripe" for just such a flash fire, said Pendleton firefighter Lt. Bruce Wathen, 38, of Temecula. He said the sudden firestorm was no surprise.

"This is what we call extreme fire behavior," a soot-covered Wathen said just an hour after the flames raced through his team's sector.

Wathen said his men — many of them former Marines — instinctively knew they were in danger and dropped their gear in

place to escape.

"That does not happen that often," he said. "When you have to drop your gear, you know it's serious."

"We fight fires aggressively, but provide for safety first," Wathen and his buddies chanted in unison, one of 10 standard fire orders

they've memorized.

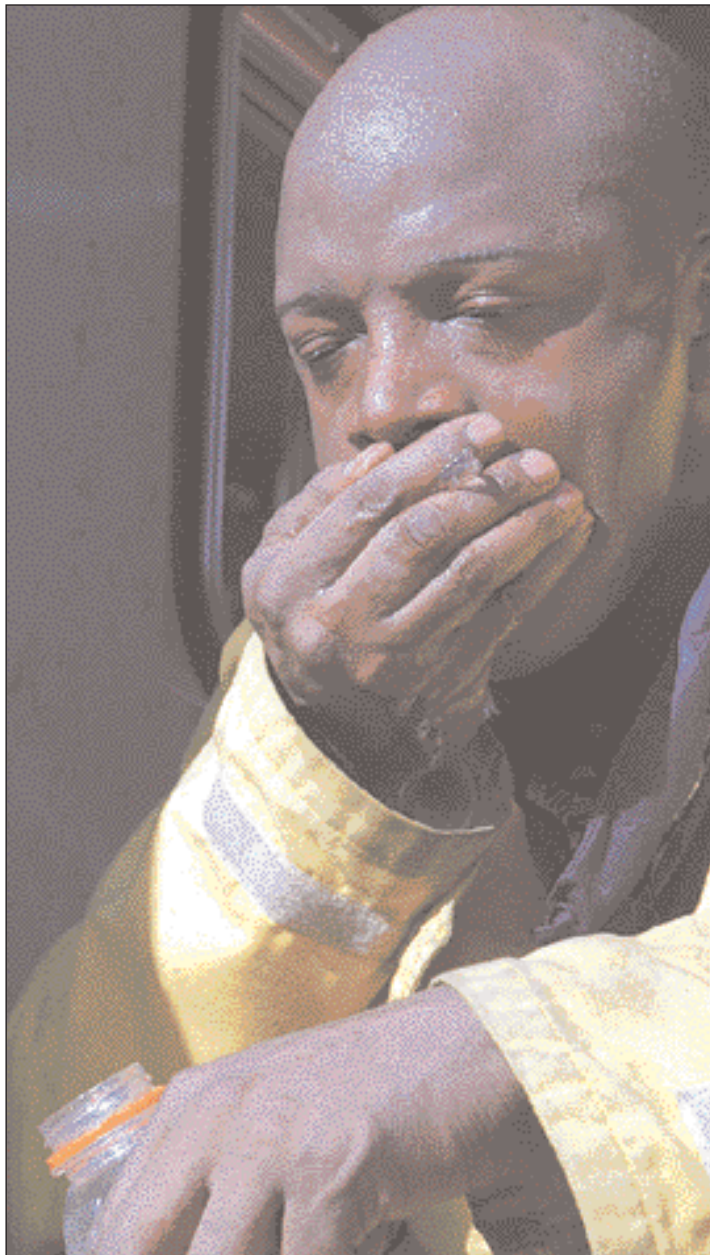
Reaching into one of the team's trucks, Wathen produced a plastic water bottle labeled with the fire order oath. He said the guiding words are the firefighters' version of a Marine's general orders while standing guard duty.

"This is the fire that they've always talked about happening," Wathen said as an overhead tanker buzzed on its way to dump another load of red slurry on live flames located on the backside of a steep ridgeline just 500 yards from where Wathen stood.



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

Arizona firefighters Todd Cupell, 27, and Bill Hurley, 41, of Corona De Tucson, Ariz., were among the crews in Roblar Canyon when an intense firestorm passed through Oct. 23.



LANCE CPL. SAMUEL BARD VALLIERE

Luke Jackson, a firefighter with Camp Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services, rubs ice on his face to cool down after fighting the fire on the front lines Oct. 22.

Fire

From Page A1

many hours,” said Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, base commanding general. Firefighters faced dry brush in areas that haven’t received measurable rainfall in months, according to Simpson. The area had not been burned since the late-80s, resulting in high fuel density. Large plumes of smoke clouded the base as fierce winds blew through canyons and valleys, pushing the fire along. The dry conditions and

gusting Santa Anas created ideal wildfire conditions, Simpson said. The fire burned wildlands in training areas well away from structures, he said. Nonetheless, frontline firefighters needed help from above to keep the fire from spinning out of control. “The steep and rugged terrain poses a significant challenge to firefighters,” said Ralph Domaski, incident commander with Southern California Interagency Incident Command Team 2. “Aircraft will continue to play a key role in assisting firefighters on the ground.” The fire left not only populated areas untouched, it also

spared sensitive habitat, according to Ben Keasler, the base’s environmental planning division head. “As of Wednesday afternoon, the fire does not appear to have impacted any endangered species management programs,” Keasler said. Eight helicopters and seven fixed-wing aircraft dropped fire retardant around De Luz Canyon to extinguish the flames closing in on neighboring communities. “The success came from availability of our resources,” Simpson said. “We have to work like a team to get these things put out.” E-mail Sgt. Salinas at: SalinasLA@pendleton.usmc.mil.

Miramar

From Page A1

option to evacuate and offered safe haven at other military installations, including Camp Pendleton. Tens of thousands of San Diego County residents had evacuated - some voluntarily, some by mandate - as of late Tuesday. San Diego City Council member Jim Madaffer, District 5, whose constituents reside in Tierrasanta just beyond Miramar’s gates, thanked the police and fire departments for their efforts in the community, which in-

cludes some military public-private venture housing. “They are a very tight, close-knit community who has acted with great courage ...” Madaffer said. “You can be assured that these people will rebuild with courage and honor.” On Monday, President George W. Bush designated four California counties major disaster areas, making federal money available for fire-ravaged residents in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties. California Gov. Gray Davis called fire-ravaged Southern California “a war zone.” According to Davis, 110

engines were fighting fires in San Diego County, and 40 more were on order. Davis requested additional support from Arizona and Nevada governors. By Monday, 2,300 local and imported firefighters were battling the Cedar Fire, according to the California Department of Forestry. The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society is prepared to accept offers of assistance for military families. To contact San Diego-area offices of the NMCRS, call (619) 556-8283 or (858) 577-1807. To contact the San Diego Red Cross, call (619) 542-7400.

Evacuees

From Page A1

one. Twenty-two servicemembers brought their families to the base after fires forced them from their homes and the Marine Corps has footed the bill for them to stay on base. Victoria Lerma, a billeting manager for Camp Pendleton, said billeting is accepting all servicemembers needing to evacuate their homes, no questions asked. “We’re here for them,” Lerma said. “We give them whatever we can offer.”

Lerma said it doesn’t matter what branch of service or unit to which an evacuee belongs. If they are in the military, they can seek sanctuary here. Elvira Wallis, wife of an Army reservist, also sought shelter on Camp Pendleton. She described her evacuation. “The fire was only a couple streets over, and we could see the flames coming over the hill,” Wallis said. “We didn’t even wait to get the actual evacuation. We just came over because my husband’s unit is nearby. We just hoped they would let us in and they did.” Wallis and her 14-month-old baby checked into the billeting Sunday.

She said Tuesday her stay was a short one. She got word her house is safe and planned to return home. “We’re leaving (Wednesday) morning and we’re so thankful the people here are kind and helpful,” she said. “I’m so glad we could come here.” Making room for displaced families isn’t new to the base’s billeting offices, Lerma explained. Rooms were offered up when Pendleton Marines returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom. Wounded veterans were allowed to stay there while they got back on their feet. She added they are doing all they can to help out this time too. Baxter said his stay at the base

quarters is making it easier for his family to cope. It’s more of a home-like feel than a crowded shelter. “There were a lot of shelters out there we could have gone too, but my (noncommissioned officers) offered me to do this and I liked this option,” he said. “It offers us a lot more privacy.” He’s not taking the helping hand for granted. The night Baxter evacuated his home, he took it upon himself to work with the Red Cross, feeding 200 firemen. Still, he’s nervous about his home and everything in it. “My wife went by to check on the place and she said the parking lot and all the cars were coated with

ashes,” Baxter said. Lerma said billeting employees are providing regular updates to evacuees as they become available. “We try to keep them as informed as we can,” Lerma said. “But we only know of one Marine’s house that has burned down so far.” Marine Corps Base has plans ready should further evacuations become necessary. Families seeking more information on emergency housing needs on Camp Pendleton in connection with the wildfires should contact the base Command Duty Officer at (760) 725-5617. E-mail Cpl Richards at: RichardsMS@pendleton.usmc.mil

DoD

From Page A1

diate emergency assistance without waiting for permission from Washington. Firefighters at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar helped the local communities. The fire did come onto Miramar, but officials said it did little damage to buildings. Officials said that the blaze on the base is 90 percent contained, with just a few hot spots remaining.

In the San Diego area, the Navy evacuated five military housing areas with 2,883 units. The evacuees have been placed at local bases. Firefighters at the bases are helping their civilian counterparts throughout the region, officials said. The fires, stretching from the Mexican border to the northern suburbs of Los Angeles, have destroyed more than 830 homes and burned out more than 500,000 acres. California officials said the fires are responsible for at least 15 deaths.




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Pendleton again sets pace in drug prevention

■ Installation retains DoD prize as Corps’ top anti-drug program

LANCE CPL. K. T. TRAN
SCOUT STAFF

While Red Ribbon Week’s anti-drug theme comes around every year, Camp Pendleton’s drug-prevention program is making blue-ribbon recognition an annual occurrence.

For the second consecutive year, the base garnered the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award, which recognizes the top anti-drug program in each of the service branches. John J. Veneziano, director of Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center here, accepted the award at the Pentagon Monday, the kickoff of Red Ribbon Week. Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon, base commanding general, was also named as an award recipient.

“I’m excited to go up there to receive the award, but I wish everybody that worked hard in preventing drug abuse could come

and receive the award with me,” Veneziano said. “This award shows that we were moving in a positive direction.”

Camp Pendleton’s Drug Demand Reduction Program provided a “standard of excellence” and was key to the base’s drug prevention efforts, Veneziano said. The program has presented prevention education to more than 9,000 Marines and sailors and trained 139 new substance abuse counseling officers this year.

“I think Camp Pendleton is doing exceptionally well by going out there to inform the Marines about drug abuse,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jose J. Castillo, substance abuse counseling officer with Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base.

Substance abuse counselors use posters and video to get their message out to service-

members and spouses on base. But their military members are the heart and soul of the program, Veneziano said.

“SACOs are an important part because they are the link from us to their command,” Veneziano said. “They’re important in the overall scheme of things.”

The CSACC holds training monthly for all SACOs here, Castillo said.

“I’m impressed with the monthly training for SACOs,” Castillo said. (CSACC counselors) are extremely efficient and professional when it comes to training SACOs.”

The DDR program also provided 60 Camp Pendleton commands with the eight-hour-long Marine drug awareness courses, Veneziano said.

Camp Butler on Okinawa, Japan, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., and Marine Air-Ground Task Force Training Command Twentynine Palms

also competed.

Although these bases didn’t win, they were commended at the ceremony for their drug awareness efforts and contributions to their communities, Veneziano said. Last year, less than one percent of the Marines and sailors aboard Camp Pendleton tested positive on urinalysis.

“It’s not about catching Marines and sailors, it’s about reducing the amount of drug abuse,” Veneziano said. “We want them to know that we will be testing them for drug abuse.”

During Red Ribbon Week, which concludes tomorrow, Veneziano is encouraging community members to demonstrate their commitment to a drug-free lifestyle by displaying red ribbons.

Red Ribbon Week is also being highlighted at 10 Marine Corps Exchanges on base. The awareness is designed to provide a “drug free and proud” message to the community.

“There is a drug problem out there and we are trying our best to combat that situation,” Veneziano said.

E-mail Lance Cpl. Tran: TranKT@Pendleton.usmc.mil.

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THE SCOUT

OCTOBER 30, 2003

SECTION B

Amateur sleuths wanted in Temecula

■ Top detectives to vie for \$500 this weekend

TEMECULA — Mystery buffs and crime-solving fans of the Perry Mason Mysteries are invited to Old Town Temecula Saturday and Sunday for the Erle Stanley Gardner Murder Mystery Weekend. Gardner was the creator of the Perry Mason Series and wrote 82 novels featuring crime-solving attorney Perry Mason.

A series of clues will be left around town for snooping sleuths to use in the mystery solving contest. Contestants are asked to determine the murderer and the motive, fill out the contest application form and deposit it into one of the contest boxes around town or at the Temecula Valley Museum.

On Sunday at 2 p.m., all entries will be collected and correct answers sorted from the entry forms. Correct entries will be placed in a draw-

See Game, Page B5

Exchange hiring 'mystery' shoppers

QUANTICO, VA — Get paid to shop. That's the deal the Marine Corps Exchange is offering to select patrons.

The Exchange is looking for "mystery shoppers" to take part in periodic assessments of Exchange operations.

Mystery Shoppers enter the local Exchange as average customers and evaluate the products and services offered. As anonymous customers, mystery shoppers do what managers can't — they receive unbiased treatment and thus can give accurate, objective feedback on service quality.

Mystery Shoppers are paid between \$15 and \$25 for each completed assignment and must have Exchange privileges. Confero, a North Carolina-based mystery shopping company, has been contracted by the Marine Corps

See Shoppers, Page B3

Exploring special La Jolla

With some planning, you can keep your wallet at home

Seaside hamlet has wealth of free activities

LA JOLLA — Long thought of as a haven for the rich — or those who just think they are — La Jolla is a treasure trove of expensive restaurants, upscale hotels and a handful of glossy galleries and museums.

But don't let its expensive exterior fool you. There are plenty of things to do and experience in La Jolla that won't break your personal bank.

Beaches

With miles of tidepools and beaches to explore, La Jolla can keep even the most jaded beachcomber entertained and sometimes enthralled. But keep in mind that La Jolla sees about 7,000 visitors a day, making parking a premium commodity. On the upside, however, it's free.

La Jolla Cove

A sheltered cove, typically free from breakers, provides the perfect habitat for spiny lobsters and orange garibaldi

La Jolla Cove Underwater Park

Explore but take nothing home; all marine and plant life is protected. It's off Coast Boulevard, just east of Ellen Browning Scripps Park.

Mount Soledad Viewpoint

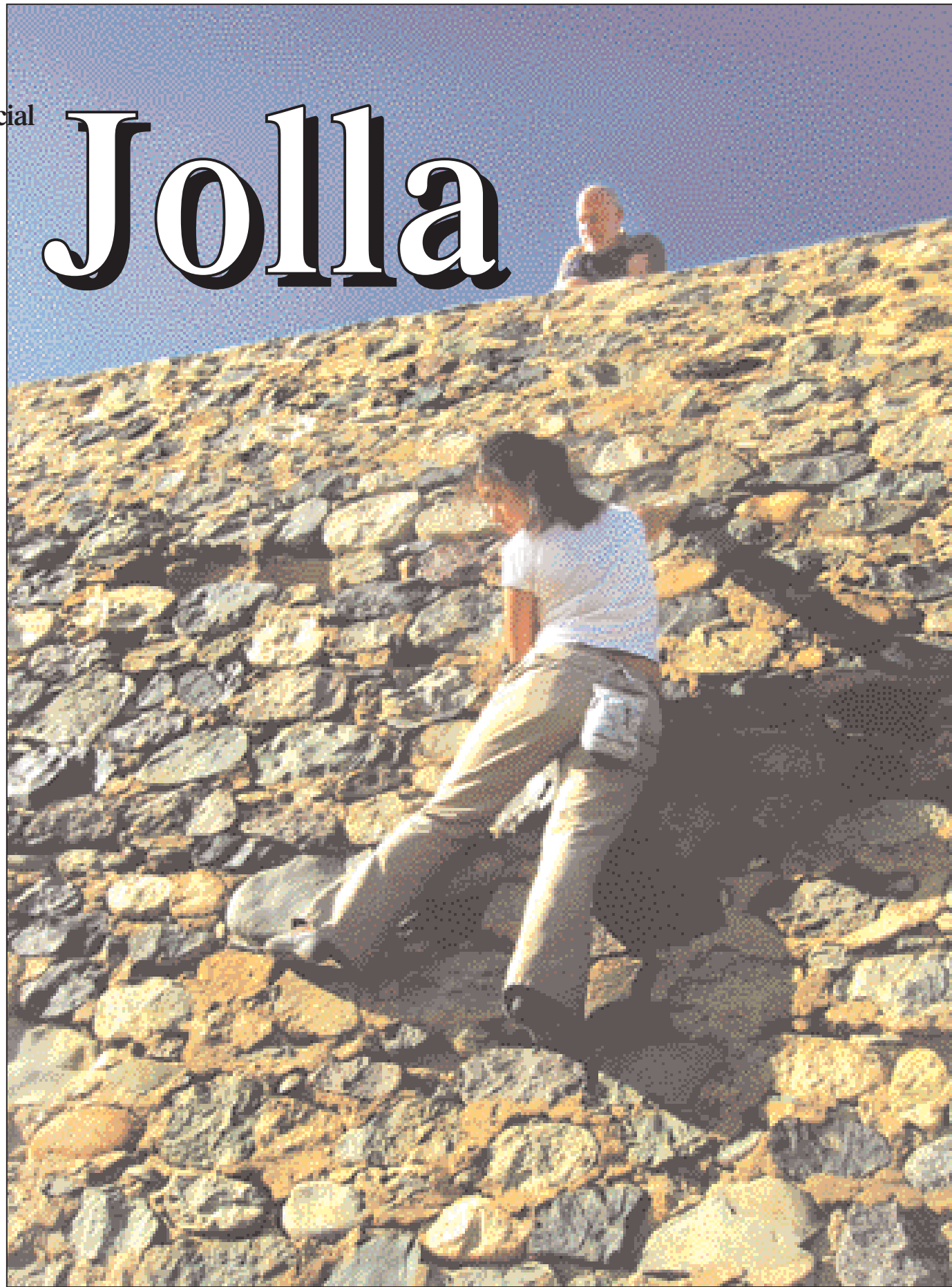
Spectacular views of the area can be found atop one of the highest points in the county.

Climbing

San Diego has numerous outdoor artificial surfaces where climbers can boulder. A steady stream of climbers can be found at the 8-20-foot-high People's Wall.

Music

Every summer, music at See La Jolla, Page B8



La Jolla People's Wall

This retaining wall in La Jolla provides a great training ground for budding rock climbers. It's about 100 yards long and varies from 8 to 20 feet high. The wall can be found along Coast Boulevard about 150 yards south of the La Jolla Children's Cove.



Photos by Rod Deutschmann



'Planes of Fame' to explore history of flight testing

Museum to conclude Saturday seminar with flight demonstration of vintage aircraft



CHINO — Flight testing — a harrowing but indispensable step toward aviation advancement — will be the subject of the monthly special event at The Air Museum "Planes of Fame" at the Chino Airport on Saturday.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. with a seminar on aircraft flight testing and conclude with a flight demonstration of the Planes of Fame's own Northrop N9M-B flying wing.

Dangerous at times, the flight testing of new designs and concepts is essential to

the development of safe and efficient aircraft and the advancement of aviation in general. In this, the centennial year of flight, it's noteworthy that the Wright brothers were the first successful test pilots and the Wright Flyer was the first successful experimental airplane, paving the way for man's future in air and space.

Although early test flying was essentially a "seat-of-the-pants" affair involving daring pilots venturing into the unknown, test flying today involves a great deal of computer research and simulation

that can take some of the mystery out of the first flights of new aircraft.

Nevertheless, man is still an integral part of the process and modern, highly educated test pilots still push the art of flying to the limits.

While simulation has made flight testing safer by helping engineers to detect problems without actually putting human beings in the air, the first flights of experimental innovations are always marked by heightened uncertainty when compared with tried and true aircraft.

An example — the MV-22 Osprey, the Marine Corps' heir apparent to the Vietnam-vintage CH-46 helicopter. Two separate crashes during flight testing in 1999 and 2000 left 23 Marines dead and forced postponement of Osprey flight testing.

Flight testing of the aircraft has since been resumed.

About the museum

As a nonprofit, educational institution, staffed primarily by a core of dedicated volunteers, The Air Museum

See Air, Page B4

Family Friendly Halloween



Base offers handful of free, ‘spooky’ events

Camp Pendleton’s Marine Corps Community Services is offering a handful of family friendly Halloween activities this week, including a haunted house, residential trick-or-treating and Halloween parties for adults and children. Here’s the lineup.

Tonight

- **Haunted House:** Children, Youth and Teen Programs’ annual Haunted House, 6-9 p.m. at Wire Mountain Youth Center. Call 725-2102.
- **Friday**
- **Family Halloween Night:** Featuring trick-or-treating, DJ music, outdoor movies and more, 5-8 p.m. at the Main-side Center Mall. Call 725-6233.

- **Trick-or-treating:** Children can make the rounds at the South Mesa Club from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 725-2231.
- **Adult Halloween Party** at South Mesa Club: Iron Mike’s Lounge guests will be dressed in their All Hallows’ Eve best starting at 3 p.m. A costume contest is at 6 p.m. First prize is a \$100 MCCS gift certificate. Call 725-2231.
- **Halloween Party:** DJ George will play country & western music from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Double Deuce. Call 725-4896.
- **Trick-or-treating:** Children can knock on doors and extend their candy bags throughout Base Housing from 6 to 8 p.m.

Shoppers

From Page B1

Exchange to conduct periodic mystery shopping visits of Marine Corps Exchange stores in the United States and Japan.

If you are interested in taking part in the program, you must first register with Confero by going to the Marine Corps Community Services Web site at www.usmc-mccs.org and click the mystery shopper logo. On the mystery shopper page, click on the "apply here link" at the bottom of the page and complete the application. Be sure to include that you were referred by the Marine Corps Exchange. Once your application has been received and reviewed, you may receive a shopper identification number. This number will allow

you to access the Exchange’s secure, shopper Web site and view available assignments. You may request assignments for Exchange locations you’re interested in. You will receive an e-mail from Confero informing you about your assignments.

Once you are accepted for an assignment, you will receive guidelines explaining what to look and listen for as you conduct mystery shopping visits. You will be told to

note signage, merchandise, customer service and employee courtesy — for example, whether the employee says thank you at the end of your transaction. You will also receive a copy of a survey you will be required to answer. Following your visit, you will complete and submit this survey via the Web.

For more information about the mystery shopper program, go to www.confero-inc.com/mccs-mcx.htm.



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Beehive drawing to a close in Old Town

■ 1960s musical’s two-year run will end Jan. 4

SAN DIEGO — “Beehive,” the ‘60s musical, has fewer than 100 performances remaining in its two-year run at The Theatre in Old Town. The production will close Jan. 4.

“Beehive” is the second-longest-running show for The Theatre. San Diego’s beloved “Forever Plaid,” which ran for nearly five years, holds the record as The Theatre’s longest running show.

“Beehive” is the dynamic musical revue celebrating the 1960s through songs by the decade’s legendary female artists. Since its opening in January 2002, “Beehive” has played to more than 80,000 people and has included more than 11,000 wig changes, 15,000 costume changes, hundreds of cans of Aquanet and countless standing ovations.

“Beehive” show times are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 5 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$28-\$38, with discounts for seniors, children and groups. Tickets are available online at www.theatreinoldtown.com or by calling the box office at (619) 688-2494.

What’s next

The next musical revue set for The Theatre in Old Town is off-Broadway’s comedy “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change,” written by Joe DiPi-

etro and Jimmy Roberts.

The duo’s most recent musical comedy success, “The Thing About Men,” opened in New York at the Promenade Theatre on Aug. 27.

The play started its historic off-Broadway run at the Westside Theatre in New York on Aug. 1, 1996. Additional productions have been mounted in more than 150 cities worldwide including Los Angeles, Toronto, Boston, Chicago, London, Tel Aviv, Mexico City and Barcelona.

The musical ride through the modern-day mating game covers dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws.

The Theatre in Old Town production will begin previews on Jan. 9 and will be directed by the show’s original off-Broadway director, Joel Bishoff.

Bishoff has directed the play across North America, including in Chicago, Denver and Toronto, as well as in London’s West End.

For the upcoming San Diego production at The Theatre in Old Town, Bishoff will assemble a cast of veterans, tapping into the talented pool of actors who have performed the show off-Broadway and around the country.

OF NOTE: The play will be produced by The Touring Circuit, Ltd., in association with Miracle Theatre Productions. The Touring Circuit, Ltd., has presented the National Tour of “I Love You...” in more than 75 cities around the country, including Raleigh, Austin and Anchorage.

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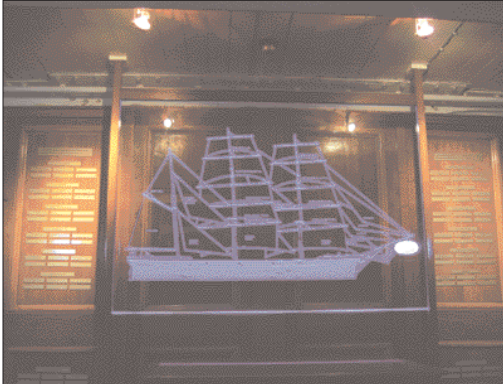
World’s oldest sailing ship touts proud heritage

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Maritime Museum, founded in 1948, grew out of the acquisition of the sailing ship Star of India by a group of local historians in 1927. Chief among them was author Jerry MacMullen, who for 50 years kept alive the dream of restoring the stately old vessel. He realized that dream in 1976. In its 139 years, the Star has seen just about everything. Its journeys have taken it through cyclones, into the heart of terrific gales, past towering icebergs and into freezing waters that sometimes froze its hull dead in the ice. ... yet it has survived. When the Spanish square-rigger Maria Asumpta sunk seven years ago, the Star of India became the oldest ship in the world that still actively sails.

Along with the Star of India, the museum preserves and interprets the steam vessels Berkeley and Medea. The engines of both vessels are operational. The Medea is

Exhibits are on all three vessels and a library is open to the public. The Maritime Museum’s permanent collection is presented in five galleries representing major themes of maritime history and their relationship to San Diego, its harbor and strategic position on the Pacific. The museum is also home to the official Tall Ship of California — the Californian. The ship was built from the ground up in 1984 at Spanish Landing in San Diego Bay. She was launched with great fanfare for the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. In July, the governor signed a bill into law designating the Californian as the official tall ship of the state of California. She is the only ship ever to carry this prestigious title. Since her

See Museum, Page B6



powered by steam and Berkeley is fueled by electronic-hydraulic power. The Medea steams somewhat regularly around San Diego Bay, while the Star of India sails every few years. The Berkeley is stationary.



Air

From Page B1

"Planes of Fame" is funded with admission fees, donations, and income from the use of its aircraft in various productions, including Hollywood movies. The museum is open every day, except Thanksgiving and Christmas, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Museum membership is open to the public. One of the benefits of membership is the opportunity to experience backseat orientation flights in warbirds. At each monthly special event, members in attendance, including last minute sign-ups, can have their names included in a

drawing for a warbird orientation flight. Museum admission is \$8.95 for adults, \$1.95 for ages 5-12 and free for 4 and younger. For more information about The Air Museum "Planes of Fame" and its program of events, call (909) 597-3722 or visit www.planesof-fame.org.



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An ‘Imperial’ setting



ROD DEUTSCHMANN

Long known for its rough-and-tumble attitude, the small and sandy community of Imperial Beach is slowly coming into its own. With a colorful, newly designed pier, several new surf shops and a handful of themed restaurants, this seaside hamlet is quickly becoming a popular destination with both out-of-state

tourists and Southern Californians who love to explore. With surfboard benches and make-your-own-steak restaurants, Imperial Beach is a beachcomber's dream. To get there, take Interstate 5 south to the Palm Avenue exit and head west. Once near the beach, look for signs that will direct you to the pier.

Game

From Page B1

ing with the winner receiving a \$500 shopping spree in Old Town Temecula just in time for the holidays.

This is the second year for the mystery event that won the California Park and Recreation Society Award of Excellence last year as the Best of the Best New Events. The Temecula Valley Museum, in conjunction with the city of Temecula and the Temecula Valley Players, hosts the Murder Mystery Weekend against the Old West backdrop of Old Town Temecula.

Actors will perform clues to a Perry Mason mystery throughout the antique stores, curio shops and restaurants beginning at 11 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Amateur sleuths can pick up the list of clues and entry blanks from local stores or the museum to try their luck at guessing the culprit. All correct answers will then be placed into a drawing for the \$500 shopping spree.

Writing and publishing seminars will be included in the weekend activities. A mystery-writing contest offering cash prizes is being held for amateur, high-school and middle-school writers.

A new component to 2003 Mystery Weekend will be an evening of cowboy poetry, western music and stories titled "Around Uncle Erle's Campfire." Spearheaded by Gardner's nephew Ken Gardner, the evening will include stories about Erle Stanley Gardner, a former resident of Temecula, as well as other campfire stories and songs from a variety of cowboy poets. Local poets Ken and Phee Graydon will share a song Ken Graydon wrote about Erle Stanley Gardner and his expeditions in Baja California. The song titled "Desert Whales" tells how Gardner saw water spouts from the Baja desert only to discover the whales migrating off the Baja Coast.

The prolific writer penned 151 books, including 82 about fictional defense attorney Perry Mason. From his house at Rancho del Paisano, he dictated his books for his seven secretaries to transcribe.

Not quite as famous as the author is an 800-year-old oak tree known as the "Great Oak" that's rooted at the ranch. Thought to be the largest oak tree in the world, the Great Oak has been the site of numerous Boy Scout campouts, spiritual gatherings and, according to legend, Native American storytelling. Huell Howser of the PBS TV

series "California's Gold" has also immortalized the Great Oak in his travels.

Gardner died in 1970 and the ranch was later split and sold. During his stay at Rancho del Paisano, he built numerous cabins and houses for the ranch hands and workers. An Orange County doctor owned the 780 acres that housed the buildings until 2001, when the Pechanga Band of the Luiseno Indians purchased the land for future development.

The Great Oak is still revered and protected by the tribe, which occasionally grants tours of the ranch and the ancient tree.

For more information on the contests and the weekend, visit www.temeculacalifornia.com or call (909) 694-6412.



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Museum

From Page B4

launching in San Diego, the ship has hosted thousands of school children on seagoing educational programs up and down the West Coast. She has also made voyages to Hawaii, Mexico and the East Coast.

The Californian is a replica of the 1847 Revenue Cutter, the C.W. Lawrence, a stately vessel that patrolled the coast of California keeping law and order. The Revenue Service was a precursor to today's Coast Guard. Designed for speed, Californian has nine sails, carries 7,000 square feet of canvas, measures 145 feet in length and weighs 130 tons. She casts a distinctive and instantly recognizable silhouette and has become one of this country's most well-known tall ships from coast to coast.

The Maritime Museum's acquisition of the Californian in June 2002 was made possible by the Hughes and Sheila Potiker Family Foundation. In the winter and spring of 2003, the ship underwent a complete overhaul including a haul-out, re-stepping the masts, replacing the standing rigging, new sails and mechanical systems and a redesign

and refurbishing of areas below deck. The work was completed with a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy.

The Maritime Museum of San Diego uses her for a variety of educational and public programs both dockside and at sea

Admission prices

Adults, \$7; Juniors (13-17), \$5; Seniors (62 and over) \$5; active-duty military (with valid military ID), \$5; children (6-12), \$4; children 5 and under get in free.

Upcoming event

Movies Before the Mast
Halloween Edition
Today through Saturday

A special edition of the Movies Before the Mast film series — featuring *Ghost Ship*, starring Gabriel Byrne and Julianna Margulies. This terrifying motion picture is projected onto a special sail. No one under 21 will be allowed aboard. There will be a full bar and a costume contest with lots of prizes.

The Star of India is one of the “most-haunted places in America,” according to a museum press release.

For more information, call (619) 234-9153.



Temporary exhibit

The Model Maker's Craft
The Exquisite Work of Master Modeler Dr. William Brown
Pleasure Boating Gallery onboard the Berkeley
Running through Jan. 1

Brown, who resides in San Diego County, is one of America's most-recognized ship model builders. His models are known for their skillful craftsmanship and incredible attention to detail. They are on exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, The Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut and at The Los Angeles Maritime Museum. The Maritime Museum of San Diego is fortunate to have the largest number of Brown's models on display anywhere. This exhibit adds 24 more models to the already impressive collection. Among the ships depicted are two with important historical ties to San Diego — Pilgrim, which brought “Two Years Before the Mast” author Richard Henry Dana to San Diego; and Orizaba, a coastal steamer that made frequent stops in San Diego during the mid-19th century.

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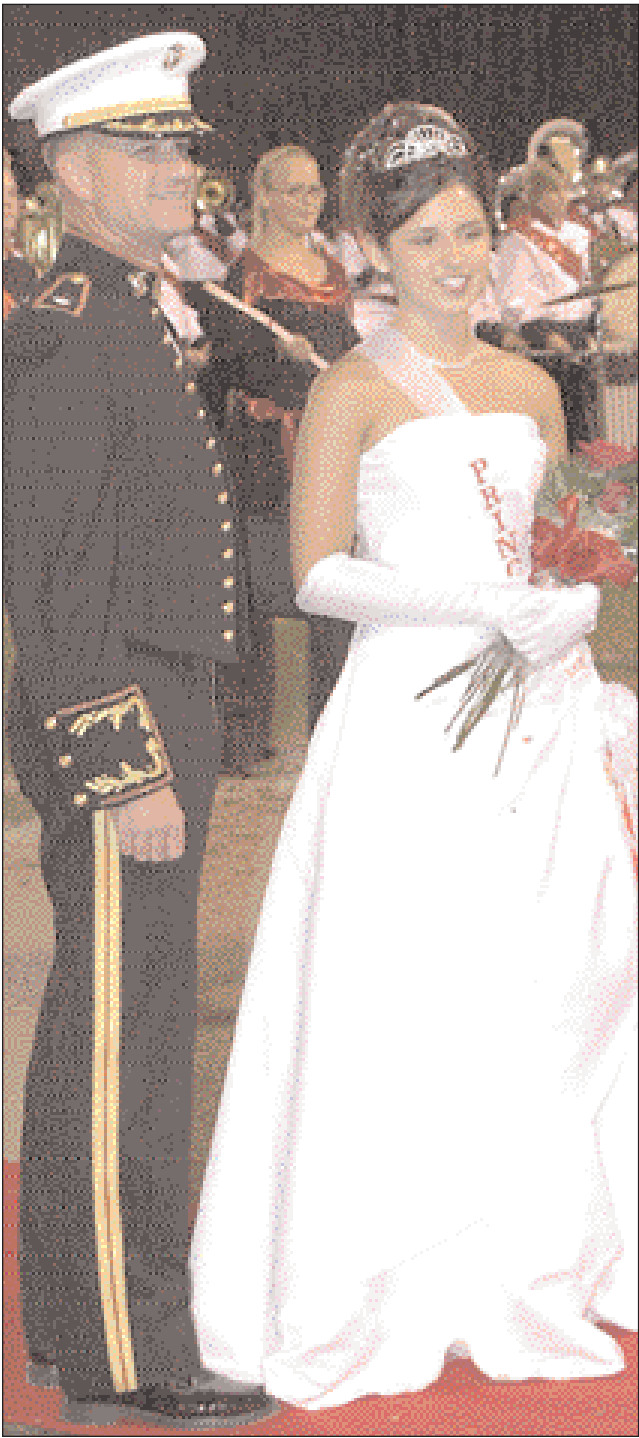
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Homecoming Queen



TAMMY RAIFSNIDER

Lt. Col. Michael L. Lawrence, commanding officer of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369, escorts his daughter Stephanie during homecoming ceremonies Oct. 24 at Fallbrook High School. Moments later, Stephanie was crowned Homecoming Queen for 2003.

La Jolla

From PageB1

Sunday afternoon concerts fills Scripps Park.

To get to La Jolla, exit Interstate 5 at Ardath Road west. Ardath Road becomes Torrey Pines Road. Continue west on Torrey Pines Road, and you reach the Village

when you come to Prospect Place. Turn right on Prospect Place to enter the heart of town.

OF NOTE: Remember parking enforcement is active here — even offseason. There is one paid parking lot in the area. To get there, take the one-way street that branches downhill off Prospect Street near Exchange Place.

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Sports

THE SCOUT

OCTOBER 30, 2003

SECTION C

SPORTS SPECIAL

ALL-BASE CHAMPIONSHIP

MAD DAWGS

11

CANNON COCKERS

8

DAWGED AGAIN

POSTGAME SHOW

"I'm retiring. I'm tired of all the headaches with coaching football, and I don't mean the players."

Jim Shepard

Mad Dawgs coach on not returning next season

"This was for Shep. We know in our hearts we did this for him."

Craig Weng

Mad Dawgs quarterback on what motivated the champs

"I still say we have the better team. But for some reason, they just have our number."

Stephen Phelps

Cannon Cockers quarterback on his squad's inability to beat the Mad Dawgs

"It's the same damn story."

Michael Teachey

Cannon Cockers lineman on Mad Dawgs' second consecutive championship and fourth straight victory over the 11th Marine Regiment

"You know, it hurts.

This was going to be the last game of my career and I really wanted to be out there."

Brister Packer

Mad Dawgs defensive standout on missing championship game with shoulder injury

"I didn't feel any pressure. I was relaxed. I just concentrated on doing my job. That's all."

Rick Bates

Mad Dawgs kicker on what was going through his mind as he set up for his game-winning 41-yard field goal

"It's a curse.

It really is."

Jacob Puda

Cannon Cockers coach on the Mad Dawgs' dominance against the 11th Marine Regiment



PHOTOS BY JOHN RAIFSNIDER

There were plenty of hard hits Oct. 22 during the All-Base Championship at the 11 Area field. The Cannon Cockers' John Freeman (right) delivered this one, forcing Mad Dawgs running back Deion Briscoe to fumble the rock. But Briscoe had the last laugh when the Mad Dawgs pulled off an 11-8 victory to capture their second-consecutive title.

For second consecutive season, Mad Dawgs chomp 11th Marines' title hopes, clench jaws on championship

■ Bates' clutch 41-yard field goal sends Shepard happily into retirement

RICHARDSON MIRON
STAFF WRITER

One kicked ball trickling over the crossbar unleashed a flood of emotions.

For the Mad Dawgs, it meant hooting, hollering, ice-cold ones for everybody and a cork-popping good time.

For 11th Marine Regiment, it was merely an icy cold chill.

"It's a curse. It really is," Cannon Cockers coach Jacob Puda lamented after watching the Mad Dawgs celebrate Rick Bates' 41-yard field goal with 4.5 seconds left. The kick barely cleared the crossbar, but when it did, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base/Marine Aircraft Group 39 clinched its second-consecutive intramural championship.

"I don't know how to explain it," 11th Marines quarterback Stephen Phelps said, shaking his head in disbelief after the 11-8 loss on Oct. 22 at the 11 Area field.

"It's the same damn story," defensive tackle Michael Teachey moaned, alluding to the Cannon Cockers' fourth consecutive loss to the Mad Dawgs, dating back to last season's championship game.

The top-seeded Cannon Cockers never hid from the fact their

■ Mad Dawgs aren't thrilled about being left out of 2003 Best of the West tournament in Hawaii.

Page C-2.

■ Some of the intramural tackle-football league's most familiar faces won't be on the gridiron next season. **Page C-2.**

■ Game summary, box score, statistics and other info. **Page C-3**

■ With standout Brister Packer injured, All-Base MVP Joe Stuck stepped up in his absence. **Page C-4.**

■ Tempers flared between two of the league's best players after the championship game. **Page C-4.**

main goal this season was defeating the second-seeded Mad Dawgs. But those hopes went up in smoke — not due to the cannon in the northern end zone that the 11th Marines brought to pump up its players and more than 600 fans in attendance — or the wildfire that roared across the hills of Camp Pendleton last week.

This smoke was created by Bates' pressure-cooked field goal.

"This was for Shep. He's been through a lot this season, and we wanted to make sure we sent him out as a winner," Bates said of Mad Dawgs coach Jim Shepard, who announced after the victory he's retiring from coaching intramural football.

Heartbroken players from 11th



Mad Dawgs quarterback Craig Weng (No. 7) tries to avert a defender Oct. 22 during the All-Base Championship at the 11 Area field.

Marines were somber — and some were speechless — after watching their biggest rivals celebrate a championship they had yearned for ever since the Mad Dawgs' victory in last year's title game. The much-ballyhooed revenge, which to a man the Cannon Cockers craved, was nowhere to be found.

No matter what the 11th Marines do, at the end of the day, Shepard finds a way to come out on top.

The coach designed a defensive scheme with the sole purpose of baffling Phelps, who had become quite efficient orchestrating the 11th Marines' vaunted passing attack. But Shepard's game plan was brilliant — the Mad Dawgs allowed just 28 yards through the air to Phelps and his crew.

"We used a different defensive scheme that we had for a while, but

See Mad Dawgs, Page C2

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POSTGAME SHOW

“Honestly, I thought (the 11th Marines) were the better team. But they didn’t make the plays..”

Clarence Perry
First Force Service Support Group’s coach’s take on what went down in the title game

“If they have the guts, they can come here and play us. We challenge them to come here and play us before they go to Hawaii.”

Jim Shepard
Mad Dawgs coach’s comments for Twentynine Palms, which will be traveling to Hawaii for the Best of the West

“We definitely missed Pack. ... I just had to overcome the pain, because I had some big shoes to fill. I just did the best I could.”

Joe Stuck
Mad Dawgs’ All-Base MVP’s take on his performance filling in for Brister Packer

“We just didn’t make the plays that were there for us.”

Larry Lawrence
Cannon Cockers speedster’s rationale for his squad’s offensive struggles

“There couldn’t have been a better way to go out. I started my career here on base with 11th Marines, so to beat them in my last game is beautiful.”

Darnell Johnson
Mad Dawgs defensive back on beating his former unit, the 11th Marine Regiment

“I’ve never been around a more organized coach. ... As of now, he’s not coaching next season. But I’m going to do my best to get him back out here.”

Gary “Big Country” Crosswhite
Mad Dawgs defensive standout on his plans to persuade Shepard to return

“Bottom line: MAG executed better. I respect that. I feel we’re better than them, but no matter who Shepard has, his guys execute and we didn’t.”

Michael Teachey
Cannon Cockers standout on why his squad keeps losing to Shepard’s Mad Dawgs

Mad Dawgs

From Page C1

we were saving it," said the 42-year-old coach, who retired from playing just one season ago when he quarterbacked the Mad Dawgs' to their first championship last season.

"We were intent on not giving up any big plays on defense, and we really stepped up."

Phelps seemed confused on the field. He completed only three passes and had three of his 13 attempts intercepted.

"They did some stuff differently than in the past and it threw us off," said Phelps, who tossed three touchdown passes in the Cannon Cockers' victory against Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group in the semifinal Oct. 8.

"We made adjustments, but we never went to those adjustments. We just kept running the same stuff. ... I know I didn't bring my 'A' game. I definitely have to put a lot of this loss on my own shoulders."

Despite the Cannon Cockers' struggles on offense, the game's outcome was in doubt until the final buzzer.

The Mad Dawgs drew first blood in the second quarter when quarterback Craig Weng launched a pass to the end zone. Acrobatic receiver Havis "Skeletor" Wade came down with the pigskin for a 26-yard touchdown reception. There was some disgruntlement on the 11th Marines' sideline as to whether Wade was in bounds.

"He caught that ball out of bounds and everybody on our sideline could see that," Puda said. But the second-year coach, who was also coaching his final game on base, argued to no avail.

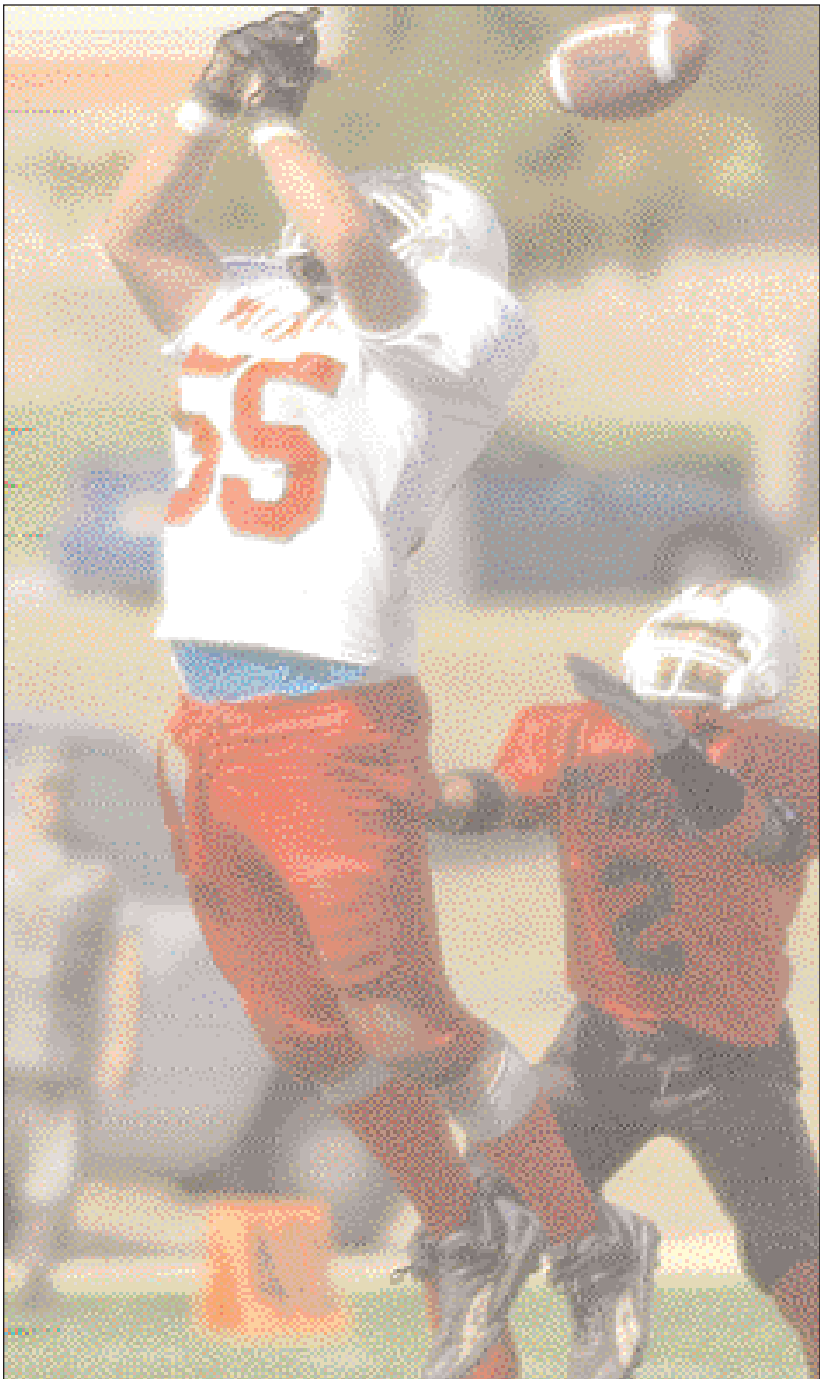
The Mad Dawgs had control of the game until disaster struck on their first possession after halftime. Weng, who was backed up on his own 5-yard line, fumbled the snap from center. Cannon Cockers linebacker Kevin Schoep recovered it.

Two plays later, standout running back Larry Lawrence tied the game with a 3-yard touchdown rush off tackle.

The rest of the second half was a stalemate until Bates came through in the clutch with his 41-yard field goal that barely floated over the crossbar.

"We spent a lot of time this week working on (field goals)," Shepard said. "We didn't get a good snap down, but our holder (Weng) was able to save it and get it down, and Bates put it through. That was a huge kick."

"This was the perfect way to go out."



Mad Dawgs linebacker Gary "Big Country" Crosswhite nearly intercepts a pass intended for Cannon Cockers running back Larry Lawrence during the All-Base Championship game on Oct. 22.

Mad Dawgs miffed about Hawaii snub

■ Twentynine Palms will travel to island for Best of the West despite MAG's defending champ status

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

Seldom shy to express what's on his mind, Jim Shepard didn't hold back when asked his feelings on Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base/Marine Aircraft Group 39 not being sent to Hawaii for this year's Best of the West tournament.

"I think it's crap and you can quote me on that," Shepard said emphatically after coaching his final game, an 11-8 victory for the Mad

Dawgs over the 11th Marine Regiment in the All-Base championship game on Oct. 22 at the 11 Area Field.

"We've won that thing two years in a row and I think we should have been given the opportunity to defend our title."

According to intramural sports coordinator Chuck Pearse, the Best of the West tournament, which was organized by Twentynine Palms athletic director Skip Best, will be held the first week of December and only one team will be flown from the



Jim Shepard

mainland to Hawaii. That team will be coming from Best's own backyard.

Pearse said whoever wins the intramural league at Twentynine Palms will be awarded the chance to play in the big game in Hawaii.

"I wish our Marines could have had a chance to go," Pearse said. "They definitely deserve it. I think we should be there, but it's a done deal."

Last year the prestigious tournament was held at Twentynine Palms. In the first round, the Mad Dawgs defeated the 11th Marines for the first of four straight victories against their biggest rivals.

Then in the finals against Hawaii, Shepard's squad won the championship when 2002 Mike Anderson Player of the Year recipient Martin Hagan scored the game-winning touchdown in overtime.

■ Packer, Shepard, Puda, Teachey, Lawrence and D.J. won't return in 2004; Crosswhite questionable

JOHN RAIFSNIDER
SPORTS EDITOR

Several familiar faces to the Camp Pendleton gridiron landscape likely will be missing from the field and sidelines next season. Some are retiring from the game altogether, some are taking on greater responsibilities in their military jobs and others are just plain fed-up and want to get away from the sport.

One member of Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base/Marine Aircraft Group 39 — who is in the running for Player of the Year honors — is hedging his bets and says he isn't positive what the future holds for him next season.

"Exactly what I'll be doing next season, as far as football is concerned, I'm just not sure right now," Gary "Big Country" Crosswhite said after helping the Mad Dawgs win their second-consecutive All-Base championship Oct. 22 with an 11-8 victory against the 11th Marine Regiment.

"I love this game, it's my passion and when you have such a passion for something as much as I have for football, it's hard to walk away from the game."

Nagging injuries and pressure from concerned family members may help hasten Crosswhite's deci-



Brister Packer (left) was forced into a cheerleading role Oct. 22 during the All-Base Championship against the 11th Marine Regiment because of his severely injured left shoulder.

sion about playing another season.

"I know my wife Jill and my kids would like to see me quit because I'm getting pretty beat up these days. I'm 35 years old and I'm beginning to feel the effects of getting older."

Crosswhite says the long season and the march through the playoffs may have aggravated injuries to his already-weary bones and joints, but that if he plays next year, he'll be better prepared for the rigors of football.

"Honestly, I didn't condition myself for this, and I'm not as fast or as strong as I used to be. But if you put the effects of growing older up against the passion of playing this

game — the passion wins over every time," Crosswhite contends, adding that he'd limit his playing time next year if he decides to strap it on one more time.

"If I play next year, I'd like to play on just one side of the ball. The last few years I've played both offense and defense. The only time I come off the field is during punts and kickoffs."

Despite his self-described diminishing skills and abilities, and although Crosswhite's return to the football field — as a player — next season is in doubt, his unfailing love for the game remains.

"I've heard once again that our battalion commander would like to

"We're definitely disappointed," Gary "Big Country" Crosswhite said about not being in the tournament.

"We would have liked an opportunity to play."

"It's bull (expletive)," another Hq&Spt./MAG-39 player said of the decision to keep the Mad Dawgs out.

Shepard wanted to make one thing clear: He'd be open to facing off with Twentynine Palms' championship squad just to prove who really should be going to Hawaii.

"If they have the guts, they can come here and play us," said Shepard, who would come out of his newfound football-coaching retirement to coach that one last game.

"We challenge them to come and play us before or after they go to Hawaii."

put a team together next year. Every time that subject comes up, my name gets mentioned in some capacity, but I don't know if I would play or what I'd be doing — you never know," said Crosswhite.

"One thing I do know is this: If I condition myself for this next season I'll be fine, because I have the passion you need to continue playing this game. I want to play this game until parts of my body start to fall off and I have to take my helmet off to go find them — that's how much I love this game."

Other players and coaches were more direct in their plans for next season.

"This was my last year — this is it — I'm retiring," said 11th Marines standout lineman Michael Teachey.

"I'm going to drill instructor school in January at MCRD, and I won't have time to be playing football."

Brister Packer says it's time for him to devote less time on the gridiron and more in the family room.

"I don't think I'm going to play next year. I'm ready to enjoy my life and my family," says Packer.

"I promised my wife, I told her I'm going to take up golf or some-

See Retiring, Page C3

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POSTGAME SHOW

“I think we’ll definitely be motivated by this next season.”

Kevin Schoep
Cannon Cockers linebacker giving his thoughts on the revenge his squad will once again be seeking in 2004

“People said we didn’t have the talent we had last year and that we weren’t going to come back. But we just needed to put it together.”

Deion Briscoe
Mad Dawgs running back on proving wrong those who doubted his squad earlier in the season

“I know I didn’t bring my ‘A’ game. I definitely have to put a lot of this loss on my own shoulders.”

Stephen Phelps
Cannon Cockers quarterback on his own performance

“I’m not saying Phelps let us down, but he definitely didn’t play his best game.”

Jacob Puda
Cannon Cockers coach on the play of his quarterback

“Without Pack, we needed guys to step up and make plays. Joe Stuck and the other guys (on the defensive line) really stepped up huge.”

Gary “Big Country” Crosswhite
Mad Dawgs defensive standout on playing the big game without his partner in crime, Brister Packer

Puda Stuck with loss despite pregame promise

■ With Packer injured, Stuck takes game to another level, captures playoff MVP award

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

Jacob Puda couldn’t help but sound a bit cocky when he saw Brister Packer out of uniform with a sling on his injured left shoulder before the All-Base championship game on Oct. 22.

The 11th Marine Regiment football coach smiled and said without a hint of insecurity, “We’re going to win.”

It’s hard to fault Puda for being overconfident.

The loss of Packer to Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base/Marine Aircraft Group 39 was a boon for the Cannon Cockers.

The defensive end has been virtually unblockable this season, and his absence — due to a tear in his rotator cuff suffered during the Mad Dawgs’ triple-over-time semifinal victory against Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division — gave Puda another reason to believe his squad would finally beat the Mad Dawgs.

Puda was wrong. Despite playing without its most dominating force, the Mad Dawgs’ defensive line put on a show, recording five sacks in an 11-8 victory over the 11th Marines at the 11 Area Field. Headlining the group was two-



Jacob Puda

way standout Joe Stuck. The tough trenchman picked up where Packer left off, recording 3 1/2 sacks to earn the All-Base Playoff MVP award chosen by coach Jim Shepard.

Ironically, Stuck played most of the game with a shoulder injury similar to the one Packer suffered a week earlier.

“Stuck was huge,” Shepard said after leading the Mad Dawgs to their second consecutive intramural championship and their fourth consecutive victory against their biggest rival, the 11th Marines. “Make sure he gets his credit. He was awesome.”

“I don’t even know what to say,” said Stuck, whose big plays were good for 27 yards worth of losses to the Cannon Cockers.

“We definitely missed Pack. I just had to overcome the pain. I had some big shoes to fill and I just did the best I could.”

Also stepping up on the defensive line for the Mad Dawgs were Tyree Johnson, who blocked an

11th Marines field-goal attempt in the second quarter, and Joe McWhorter.

“We’ve got guys with big hearts,” said McWhorter, who registered a sack in the victory. “We did what we had to win the game. ... Nobody can replace Pack, but we just had to step up.”

Packer, who will undergo surgery in the next couple weeks, felt terrible not being able to play in the big game. He even considered suiting up early in the first half. But he overcame the urge, realizing that it just wasn’t worth the damage he might do to his health.

Packer has said all season he wouldn’t be returning to the gridiron next season.

“You know, it hurts,” Packer said of having to watch from the sideline. “This was going to be the last game of my career and I really wanted to be out there.

“But I knew these guys could do it.”

Tensions between Johnson, Lawrence boil over

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

The rivalry between Mad Dawgs defensive back Darnell Johnson and Cannon Cocks running back Larry Lawrence reached its boiling point Oct. 22 after the Mad Dawgs’ 11-8 victory in the All-Base championship, when the two standouts had to be restrained from each other as they jawed at one another across the 11 Area Field.

For several weeks, the two had been talking smack. Johnson claimed after the Mad Dawgs’ triple-over-time semifinal victory against Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division “that he wanted Larry Lawrence.”

Lawrence and Johnson never lined up one on one in the title game, but the speedy running back did make Johnson miss once on an open-field tackle.

“Tell him he can’t touch me,” said Lawrence, who limped off the field with a bruised right calf after the championship game.

Johnson admitted that one single play didn’t go his way, but said he was happy walking away with the victory in his final game before leaving the Marines later this year.

“There couldn’t have been a better way to go out,” Johnson said. “I started my career here on base with 11th Marines, so to beat them in my last game is beautiful.”

Johnson said deep down, he and Lawrence are good friends, and they will probably play ball together next season at either Grossmont or Mesa Community College.

Can I get a little help here?

All-Base playoff MVP Joe Stuck, chosen by coach Jim Shepard, lay on the field for several minutes after dislocating his shoulder in the first half.

The irony: His wife Cassidy, who is a nurse, usually rushes out to the field to help players who are injured. But as Stuck was sprawled out on the grass, she did no such thing.

“He would have told me to get off,” she said with a laugh after the game.

Stuck played through the injury and recorded 3

1/2 sacks in the victory.

Not so impartial

Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group football coach Clarence Perry watched his squad get shellacked by the 11th Marines in his squad’s semifinal playoff game.

Nonetheless, there he was on the Cannon Cocks’ sideline before the game, helping out as an assistant to the Cannon Cocks’ coaches. Perry said he was pulling for the Cannon Cocks — and believed they should have won the game.

“Honestly, I thought (the 11th Marines) were the better team, but they just didn’t make enough plays,” said Perry, who isn’t a fan of the fact Hq&Spt/MAG was able to bolster its roster before the playoffs with players from other units.

Star-studded sideline

Two of the Mad Dawgs’ best players from a year ago were in attendance — this time as fans. Martin Hagan, the 2002 Mike Anderson Player of the Year recipient at running back, and Edward Neal, a Golden Helmet selection at linebacker, watched the Mad Dawgs defend their title.

Neal said he would like to have played this season, but he just didn’t get back from a deployment in time.

No stick, no problem

Before the game began, officials realized the down-marker stick was broken. But it wasn’t a major setback, because the new scoreboard at the 11 Area Field was up and working. It’s a good thing, because there were more than 600 spectators in attendance.

Numbers game

2 — Losses this season for the Cannon Cocks, both of which came to the Mad Dawgs.

2.2 — Yards per pass attempt by the Cannon Cocks’ vaunted pass-

ing attack.

3.5 — Sacks by All-Base Playoff MVP Joe Stuck.

4 — Straight times the Mad Dawgs have defeated 11th Marines.

5-foot-2 — Just because Stanley Pittman doesn’t stand tall, doesn’t mean the Mad Dawgs’ special teams player isn’t a factor. He proved his toughness during the title game.

10 — Number of touches on offense for the League’s most dynamic playmaker Larry Lawrence.

18 — Seasons Jim Shepard, who announced his retirement from coaching after the game, has been a part of Marine Corps football.

600-plus — Spectators in attendance at the 11 Area field, most of whom were supporting the 11th Marines.

Football Notebook

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Brees delivers Leaf-like performance on MNF

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

Here's what John Madden had to say about the San Diego Chargers as he watched Monday night's debacle.

Their defensive secondary was "terrible," their defensive line delivered "no pass rush," their offensive line didn't do "a very good job," their play calling was "predictable" and to top it all off, "they just don't have enough good players."

Madden just about covered it.

But there's one thing the famous football commentator didn't say during the broadcast: Drew Brees is not ready to be a winning quarterback in the NFL.

Not yet, anyway.

This isn't to say the third-year pro will never be a productive signal caller. If Rich Gannon can evolve into the league's reigning MVP at the age of 36, Brees certainly has room to grow at 24.

But the Chargers quarterback has struggled on a weekly basis this season and his woes reached a new low under the bright lights of a national television audience on Monday Night Football, when the Bolts suffered an embarrassing 26-10 loss at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

The long-awaited matchup, which was supposed to mark the return of star linebacker Junior Seau to his hometown and his old stomping grounds at Qualcomm Stadium, was moved to the Chargers' nearest neighboring NFL city because of the wildfires that began roaring through San Diego County last weekend.

Wise choice. San Diegans weren't ready to host a game of this magnitude, and the league was right to pass this game out of town.

Unfortunately, Brees didn't make more good passes himself, as he tossed three interceptions against the Dolphins.

His quarterback rating against Miami: 41.7.

His quarterback rating this season: 65.6 (and falling) — the fifth-worst in the league.

Look, Brees is a great guy. You probably couldn't find a classier athlete in the Chargers' locker room.

But being a great guy with class doesn't get you very far in the big, bad NFL.

Up to this point, the best thing about Drew Brees is that he isn't Ryan Leaf.

But the truth is, Leaf — we'll refer to him as The Ultimate Loser from this point on — had more talent in his little pinky than Brees has in his whole body.

Chargers' Beat



The best thing about Drew Brees is that he isn't Ryan Leaf. ... But at some point, The Blame Ryan Leaf Campaign must stop.

That's not so much of an indictment on Brees, as it is on The Ultimate Loser. Many consider the former No. 2 pick in the 1998 NFL Draft as the biggest bust in the NFL's history.

Never has a more talented player, reaped so little out of his staggering abilities.

"That Ryan Leaf-pick took a lot out of this franchise," Madden said during the Chargers' first prime-time game in three years.

True.

The Ultimate Loser could have been this franchise's Peyton Manning, Brett Favre or Michael Vick. All of whom are quarterbacks other franchises have built themselves around.

But he turned out to be a complete waste of time and money, and unquestionably set the Chargers back in their development.

But at some point, The Blame Ryan Leaf Campaign must stop.

The Ultimate Loser has been gone for three years now, and Brees has been here ever since.

As much as we hate to admit it, he has nothing to do with this club's current situation and Brees has everything to do with it.

Head coach Marty Schottenheimer, whose substandard job performance deserves its own column space in the near future, has said he thinks this club can "win a championship" with Brees at the helm.

Maybe. And please don't misunderstand — by no means should Brees be dropped in the offseason or even benched in the interim for elderly back-up Doug Flutie.

This franchise has tied its wagon to Drew Brees and it has no choice but to ride him until the very end.

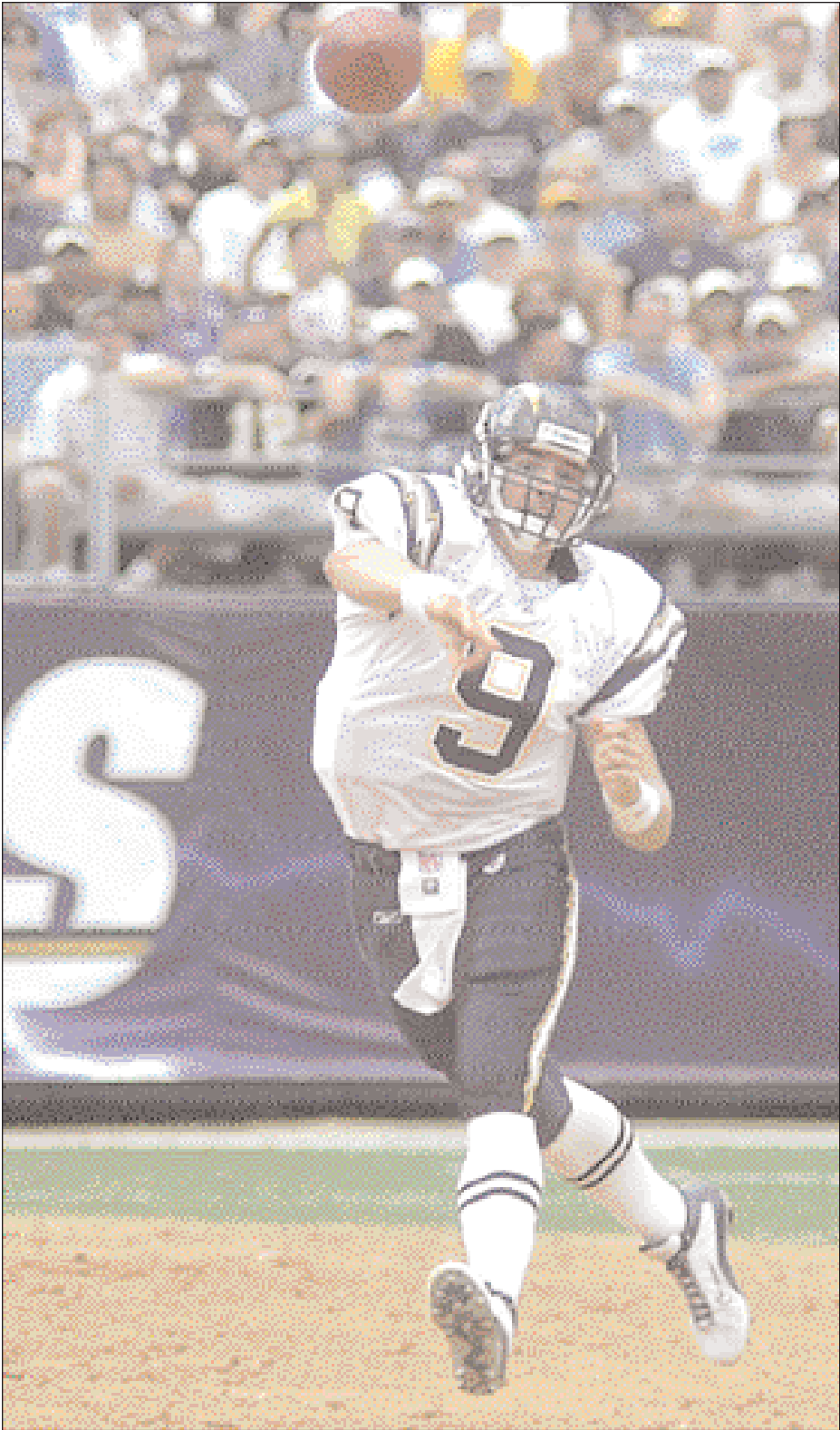
The second-round pick in the 2001 NFL Draft does show some of the intangibles it takes to be a winner. He works hard, studies harder and has the kind of makeup teammates admire.

Brees, whose arm strength is nowhere near The Ultimate Loser, can overcome some of his shortcomings with more experience and with more help around him — most notably an offensive line that will give him a full nanosecond to make a play.

But the problem is, Chargers fans were promised a winner this year and Brees just wasn't game for the expectations that were put on him by management, which called this the "push year" and said the club would "chase the championship."

Brees wasn't ready to deliver that. One day, down the road, he may be. But at this point, he's a project, whose producing like The Ultimate Loser.

John Madden and the rest of the football-minded country witnessed that Monday night.



Drew Brees has struggled this season. He's tossed 11 interceptions to just seven touchdowns during the Chargers' 1-6 start.

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Padres Season Review

Grading the Padres: Some pass, most don't

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

The Padres (64-98) finished 36.5 games behind the San Francisco Giants in the National League West. Obviously, much improvement will be needed next year when the club breaks into its new downtown ball-park if it hopes to contend.

Here's a look at how each position stacked up and graded out during the 2003 season.

Catcher: F

This position was a disaster in 2003. Gary Bennett, who was released after the season, hit below .200 for a good chunk of the time, rallying in September to finish at .238. Bennett did a good job with the young pitchers, but he clearly is better-suited for backup duty. That's why the Padres have made no secret they will pursue a catcher in the offseason.

Outlook for 2004: Don't be surprised if the club trades for the Yankees' Jorge Posada, the Red Sox's Jason Varitek or the Twins' A.J. Pierzynski. The club also might rekindle talks with the Pirates concerning Jason Kendall. As far as free agents go, the Giants' Benito Santiago and the Astros' Brad Ausmus are rumored to be on the Padres' radar.

First base: D

Ryan Klesko handled most of the duties at first and had his worst year as a Padre. Klesko hit just .252 with 21 homers, his lowest total since 1999. He was bothered by a shoulder injury and figures to be a new man come spring training.

Here's the catch: It might not be as a Friar, and if it is, it won't be at first base. The Padres are committed to playing Phil Nevin at first. The slugger, who missed the first four months of the season with a severely injured shoulder, was solid when he returned in August.

So Klesko will either move to left, or he'll be dealt.

Outlook for 2004: Nevin hit 13

homers and drove in 46 runs in just 226 at bats. The Padres would love for him to keep that pace in 2004.

Second base: A

Mark Loretta didn't disappoint after signing a free-agent contract last winter. He batted .314 with 72 RBIs, enjoying a career year in his first season in San Diego. His strong play earned him a two-year contract extension.

Outlook for 2004: If Loretta can continue to produce like he did in 2003, the Padres will have themselves a bargain.

Third base: B

Sean Burroughs started slow. But ultimately showed why the Padres' brass has been so high on the former No. 1 draft pick.

When it was all said and done, Burroughs put together a solid second season, hitting .286 with seven homers and 27 doubles, while playing very good defense at the hot corner.

Outlook for 2004: The Padres plugged Burroughs into the leadoff role in September and he flourished. He's not a speedster, but he gets on base at a .352 clip. The Padres believe his power numbers will increase as he gets more playing time. If so, the club could have a future All-Star on its hands.

Shortstop: D

The Ramon Vazquez experiment at shortstop didn't work. Now the club is considering him for a super-utility role. That probably suits him better. He does everything OK, but nothing good enough to be an every-day player.

Outlook for 2004: Highly touted prospect Khalil Greene didn't embarrass himself during his September call-up. Defensively he gives the club plenty, but there are some questions about his bat. Nonetheless, he's penciled in as the opening-day starter at Petco Park.

Outfield: D

This unit, which started off with Rondell White, Mark Kotsay and Xavier Nady, didn't produce. White's bat ran hot and cold — before he was



FILE PHOTO

Phil Nevin was a man on a mission after returning from a shoulder injury in August. Nevin finished with 13 homers in just two months of action.

Bullpen: C

This unit was well on its way to receiving a failing grade, but Rod Beck came to the rescue. The crafty veteran was toiling away in the minors when the Padres picked him up and he didn't disappoint, registering 20 saves in 20 opportunities for the Friars. He's probably not in the Padres' plans for 2004, because closer Trevor Hoffman is returning from shoulder surgery. Hoffman is 100 percent healthy and looked good during late action in September.

Jay Witasick and Scott Linebrink also performed adequately. But Luther Hackman, Jarret Wright, Jesse Orosco and Brandon Villa-fuerte all disappointed.

Outlook for 2004: The Padres are planning on spending some cash this winter. They've said addressing the bullpen will be one of their top priorities.

traded to the Royals in August. Kotsay didn't produce because of a back injury and Nady was sent down to AAA.

The club made its biggest move since 1998 when it traded for Kevin Brown by dealing for slugger Brian Giles. The former Pirate gives the Padres a top run producer. He didn't deliver a ton during the final month in San Diego, but just his presence picked up the rest of the club.

Outlook for 2004: Giles figures to be in left, but other than that, nothing is set in stone. Klesko could be dealt, or in right; Kotsay could be dealt or moved if the club acquires somebody like Mariners free agent Mike Cameron; Nady could be dealt for a catcher or could be the guy to replace Klesko, if he's traded. We'll see what shakes out this winter.

Starting pitching: C

Jake Peavy showed why he's considered a future ace. The youngster

showed guts, recording a 4.12 ERA in 194.2 innings. Peavy led the club with 12 wins. Not bad for a 22-year-old.

Adam Eaton pitched well in his first season back from Tommy John surgery. He logged 183 innings, compiling a 4.08 ERA and a 9-12 record. His fastball is still in the mid-90s and he's expected to be even better in 2004.

Brian Lawrence was the club's opening-day starter. For a while it looked like he might lose 20 games, but he pitched well during the final month of the season and finished with a 4.19 ERA and a 10-15 record.

Outlook for 2004: The Padres are said to be interested in a veteran, No. 1-type starter. Longtime Braves standout Greg Maddux is rumored to be ticketed to San Diego. The Padres also want a lefty for the back of the rotation. Yankee southpaw David Wells, Cardinal Sterling Hitchcock and former Angel Chuck Finley are all potential candidates.

Not easy to believe, but it could have been even worse

RICHARDSON MIRON
SCOUT STAFF

Really, it could have been worse. Much worse.

The Padres' 2003 season was pathetic early — the 6-23 record in May still must give manager Bruce Bochy nightmares — but the club regrouped in time, avoided losing 100 games and giving its faithful something to look forward to at Petco Park in 2004.

Rather than mulling over what went wrong, let's look at what went right.

No. 1: When word broke last offseason the Padres were close to completing a trade with the Cincinnati Reds for Ken Griffey Jr., most fans were irked the blockbuster didn't go down.

Livid fans lit up the talk shows because injury-prone slugger Phil Nevin utilized his no-trade clause and vetoed the one-for-one swap. Boy, were the fans wrong.

Nevin's stay in San Diego is starting to look like the club's saving grace. The first baseman, who was lost for the first four months of the season with a shoulder injury, worked his tail off to return early. When he got back, he was lights-out, cranking 13 homers and 46 RBIs in 226 at-bats. His numbers projected over a 162-

game season would have been impressive.

Griffey, on the other hand, was seriously injured for the third consecutive year. The Kid, who was once the toast of baseball, has only played in 234 of the Reds' last 486 games.

No. 2: Even Padres general manager Kevin Towers didn't know what he was getting when he inked second baseman Mark Loretta to a one-year contract last winter.

At the time, it seemed as if the Padres had lost out on who they really wanted. The club offered Edgardo Alfonso \$24 million over four years, but the infielder opted to sign with rival San Francisco Giants for \$26 million.

Loretta (.314 average, 13 homers and 72 RBIs) not only outplayed Alfonso (.259, 13, 81), he also earned a two-year extension and is now one of the cornerstones of the franchise — for about \$25 million less.

Somebody was looking out for the Friars on this one. If Alfonso had signed, this club's financial outlook would be far worse.

No. 3: The Padres made a great move, trading three prospects to the Pittsburgh Pirates for outfielder Brian Giles.

For the first time since Tony Gwynn retired, the Padres have a true star player. Longtime standouts Ryan Klesko, Trevor Hoffman and Nevin are huge assets to any team, but Giles is

See Padres, Page C8

Padres' Beat

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Youth flag football standouts

Oct. 4 results Under 7 Packers vs. Buccaneers Packers: Dartanian Wallace, James Hammer Ravens vs. Jets Ravens: Jon Walters, Brian Ezell Jets: Dakota Long, Dylan Harris “C” Div. Eagles 6, Jets 0 Eagles: Charles Cook, Robert Shin Chargers 14, Giants 7 Giants: Cain Rush, Dominique Murray Bucs 6, Dolphins 0	Dolphins: Sagane Snow, Angel Fraden Wilder Bucs: Ethan Desrosier, Jeremiah Robins Titans 24, Bears 6 Titans: Cornell Prody, Andrew Beck Bears: Gabriel Ferreira, Caroline Jansen Ravens 36, Eagles 6 Ravens: Adam West, Tyler McDowell Cheerleading Mainside Autumn Ashley, Taylor Duncan Stuart Mesa Kendall Ryan, Itzel Ruiz, Victoria Brown, Emily Cook	Frontgate Marisa Verhulst, Teighlor Rardon, Elleine Sanchez Games Oct. 20 Under 7 Ravens vs. Dolphins Ravens: J.T. Breeden & Tylique Spencer Dolphins: DeVonte Woods & Rey Johnson Packers vs. Broncos Packers: Braxton Davis & James Hammer Broncos: Renton Poole & David Stevens Buccaneers vs. Jets Buccaneers: Alex Rivet & Rylen Chute Jets: Gabnile Danidi & Breeze Hawthorne	“C” Div. Jets 20, Dolphins 8 Jets: James Robertson & Austin Van Hoy Dolphins: Charles Denkins & T.J. Paulo Chargers 24, Buc 6 Buccaneers: Jalen Turnage & Trent Carlton Giants 6, Eagles 0 “B” Div. Eagles 20, Bears 6 Eagles: Tyler Olsen & Darrien Sheaperd Bears: Darrin Sawn & Brittney Castlebury
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Youth soccer standouts

Oct. 4 results Under 6 Tiny Titans vs. Little Goblins Tiny Titans: Andy Snyder, Faith Barge Little Goblins: Justin Eckert, Paige Stevens Hornets vs. Blue Streak Hornets: Brian Kerl, Cyphrus Lee Pumas vs. Bombers Pumas: Tyler Oakley, Michelle Driotez Fire Dragons vs. Stingrays Fire Dragons: Jack Robinson & Carla Arregoin Stingrays: Chase Rodgers, Jacob Ganzer Under 8 Purple Gator vs. Bulldogs Purple Gator: Kameron Crowell, Caleb Ayers Red Rattlers vs. The Hulks Red Rattlers: Isaiah Flores, Andrew Hernandez The Hulks: Mickenon Adams, Kara Karle Steel Rain vs. Blue Lightning Steel Rain: Nicolette Steet, Brooke Anderton Blue Lightning: Sadie Thompson, Collier Curtwright Silverstars vs. Cobras Silverstars: Eric Fuson, Mark Fuson	Goal Miners vs. Green Goblins Goal Miners: Charlie Powers, Courtney Groves Green Goblins: Diego Medina, JJ Huizar Crocodiles vs. Sharks Crocodiles: Kiani Hudec, Samantha Key Sharks: Samuel Chambers, Joshua DeJong Under 10 Blue Lightning 4, Stampede 4 Blue Lightning: Taeao Cole & Trenton Jones Stampede: Josue Renteria & Katarina Romero Vipers 4, Tornados 2 Vipers: Alexandra Mack, Nick Rogers Tigers 9, Green Warriors 0 Green Warriors: Landon Fisher, Richard Kennelly Tigers: Jordan Kyzer & Nathan Scott Storm 0, Ice 0 Storm: Breanna Carrasco, Ashley Gutierrez Blue Cyclones 3, Trailblazers 1 Trailblazers: Anthony Garcia, Brian Huizar Blue Cyclones: Sara Smith, Christopher Carlisle Under 13 Flamethrowers 3, Blue Slushies 2 Flamethrowers: Austin Pilt-ingsrud, Zach Bargeron	Blue Homies 2, Purple Panthers 0 Purple Panthers: Kristen Leikwold, Avalon Mendiola Blue Homies: Janell Rosalez, Michael T. Gray Hurricanes 8, Quick Silver 0 Hurricanes: Tyler Throesch, John Cotoia Quicksilver: Eric Lopez, Kathleen Dunford Under 19 Orange Crush 3, El Diablo 1 Orange Crush: Tony Marriott, & Moe Gordon El Diablo: Devin Cullen, Heather Groves Flipside Chevy 4, Blue Thunder 0 Flipside Chevy: Kyler Patterson Games played Oct. 20 Under 6 Bluestreak vs. Pumas Blue Streak: John Paul Henson & Sarah Skidmore Pumas: Tyler Oakley & Derell Panszc Stingrays vs. Tiny Titans Stingrays: Jacob Ganzer & Tori Everhart Tiny Titans: Joelene Greystone-Araiza & Elizabeth McCormack Fire Dragons vs. Little Goblins Fire Dragons: Ashley DeMilio & Kayla Carter Little Goblins: Paige Stevens & Kendall Clark	Bombers vs. Hornets Bombers: Keanu E. Silva Under 8 Sharks vs. Cobras Sharks: Samuel Chambers & Marissa Pierce Silver Stars vs. Hulks Silver Stars: Kennedy Mella & Marina Robles Red Rattlers vs. Blue Lightning Red Rattles: Makyla Herrera & Shelton Clark Crocodiles vs. Bulldogs Crocodiles: Gavin Larson & John Washington Red Fire Balls vs. Steel Rain Red Fire Balls: Ramil Mercado & Kellye Spingstead Steel Rain: Nicollette Steet & Jacob Lewis Purple Gators vs. Goal Miners Purple Gators: Kanea Covey & Erik Estrada Goal Miners: Andrew Hahne & Abbie Terselic Under 10 Vipers 5, Blue Cyclones 1 Blue Cyclones: Ismael Gallardo & Sara Smith Ice 4, Devils 0 Devils: Hector Rodriguez & Diane Colgher Ice: Vanessa Delgado & Jessica Nowak Trailblazers 4, Stampedes 0 Trailblazers: Alexianna Chambers	& Jessica Bredwell Stampedes: Alex Zorotrian & Josue Renteria Tigers 6, Toronadoes 0 Tornadoes: Paul Raymond & Griffen Handerson Tigers: Shawn Burlingame & Kyle Kaufer Storm 2, Green Warriors 0 Green Warriors: Chris Childer & Stephen Runion The Storm: Breeana Carrasio & Alyssa Carrasio Under 13 Hurricanes 6, Blue Slushies 2 Hurricanes: Blake King & Tyler Vargas Blue Homies 5, Quicksilver 0 Quicksilver: Ashlee Roybal & Thomas Cote The Blue Homies: Janell Rosalez & Michael Gray Knights 3, Purple Panthers 2 Purple Panthers: Eric Reyna & Travis Willmarth Knights: Carolyn Hauser & Andrew Terselie Under 18 Flipside Chevys 7, El Diablo 4 Flipside Chevys: Kevin King & Rau Villiareal El Diablo: Troy Jones & Emily Holman Orange Crush 4, Blue Thunders 3 Orange Crush: Christopher Foy& Vivian Canales
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On Your Mark

NOTE: Due to the recent brush fires in San Diego County, check with event coordinators for exact race times and locations.	Running ■ Inaugural Run for Rett 8K run and wheelchair race and one-mile fun run, 7 a.m. at Fiesta Island on Mission Bay. For more information, call Veleria at (619) 253-6928 or register online at signmeupsports.com.	Saturday Running ■ Pumpkin Patch Dash Four-Mile race, 8 a.m. at Sweetwater Regional Park. For more information, call Tagg Running Events at (619) 475-TAGG.	Sunday Running ■ Eighth annual Komen-San Diego Race for the Cure, 8 a.m. at Balboa Park. For more information, call (858) 792-2900.	Saturday Cross Country ■ Mountain West Conference Championships (W), 9 a.m. at SDSU Volleyball ■ Wyoming @ SDSU (W),7 p.m.	Tuesday Volleyball ■ USD @ SDSU (W), 7 p.m. Basketball ■ L.A. Stars @ SDSU, 7:05 p.m.
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Base boxing team tryouts slated

Tryouts for the Camp Pendleton boxing team are scheduled for this weekend at the 33 Area fitness center. Registration and weigh-ins begin Friday at 10 a.m. and tryouts for 11 weight classes will start at 10 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Preregistration is required in person — no phone calls will be accepted.

A 2-pound weight allowance in each division will be given to each competitor. All participants must bring a mouthpiece, hand wraps and be outfitted in workout attire.

Sailors and Marines, male or female, attached to Camp Pendleton are welcome to compete for a spot on the team.

For more information on the boxing team tryouts call boxing coach Anthony Gonzales at 725-8737 or e-mail him at anthonyjgonzales@cox.net

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Pendleton players compete in Spokane Hoopfest

■ Cassandra Best and Brandi Rodgers part of All-Marine female team at Spokane event

SGT. S. L. STANDIFIRD
MARINE CORPS NEW SERVICE

Sweat drips from the Marine's brow. He takes a deep breath before setting up for the free throw. Meanwhile, a little farther down the street, his female counterpart hustles for a rebound.

Sharing their love for the game of basketball, four Marines from the female All-Marine Basketball Team and four recruiters from Recruiting Station Seattle came together in downtown Spokane, Wash., to participate in the nation's largest 3-on-3 street basketball tournament, the Spokane Hoopfest.

Representing RS Seattle were Steven Thomaselli, James Turner, Marvin Caulk and Ricardo Moran. Representing the female All-Marine Team were Carlotta Moore, Andrea Smith — and two Camp Pendleton players, Cassandra Best and Brandi

Rodgers. Thoughts of taking home the championship lingered in each player's mind, but there were alternative motives to braving the hot Spokane sun during the outdoor tourney.

"We came out here to have fun," said Moran, a first-time Hoopfest participant. "It's good to come out and get the wins, but it is all just about having fun and coming out here to play street ball."

The male team was out-matched in most of its games. The players didn't quite get into the groove of playing together until they were almost

out of the tournament. When they finally did come together, they picked up a win.

"Even though we were evenly matched (in that game), it felt good," Moran said of their first win.

"It felt good because we pulled together as a team. After we came together, we had the potential to win more games."

After their first win, however, the recruiters had only one more chance to stay alive.

Down the road in the women's division, the All-Marine team was struggling to conform to the style of play on

the asphalt.

"We expected a completely different game," said Moore. "It's a different style of basketball. Hoopfest is more of a one-on-one game rather than a team sport. It was a good learning experience."

With their style of play altered to fit the dynamics of Hoopfest, the All-Marine team, the oldest in the competition, struggled to get a win.

According to Best, the competition was very physical. Moore agreed and added that the girls are more competitive because they have been play-

ing together longer.

"As Marines, the opponent's mindset is that they have to beat you," added Moore.

Although the competition in both the female division and elite male division was tough, the players persevered.

"Even though we were in a higher division, we had to do what Marines do," said Moran. "Suck it up and do our best."

Neither of the Marine teams progressed into the tournament finals, but their impact was felt by the other teams and spectators a like.

"It gives the locals a chance to see what Marines are like," said Moran.

"You have people looking at you to see if you play well and to just see Marines. They can see that we not only support the mission, but stop for athletics too."

Moore also felt it was important to show potential applicants that Marines do more than just fight.

"Yeah we have a mission to complete, but we have fun too. It opens up the thought that they can play sports in the Marine Corps," she said.

Padres

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one of the game's elite talents.

The outfielder, who excels in all phases, gives the Padres' order a legitimate slugger. Giles has a career .980 OPS and has averaged 32 homers per season during his nine-year career. He's a stud.

No. 4: Losing has its advantages. The Padres not only own the first pick in next year's amateur draft, but they were able to give some of their young players a chance to take their lumps in the big leagues.

The Padres were able to find out about their youngsters during 2003's last-place finish.

For starters, they learned they have two good young ones in Adam Eaton (4.08, 9-12) and Jake Peavy (4.11, 12-11). Both proved they have top-of-the-rotation ability. Brian Lawrence, the Friars' opening-day starter, proved he isn't a No. 1, but the right-hander finished strong and will be a key player in 2004. And erratic southpaw Oliver Perez proved he wasn't ready, so the club dealt him in the Giles trade.

Third baseman Sean Burroughs, outfielder Xavier Nady and shortstop Khalil Greene had their moments, and the Padres will look to them to play important roles in 2004.

Key questions concerning several veteran players were also answered. Hoffman, who was lost for most of the season with a shoulder injury, returned in September and looked as good as ever when he came back striking out 11 in nine innings. Hoffman had an option for the 2004 at \$10 million, but by missing the bulk of the season, the long-time closer will come much, much cheaper. That could be a blessing when the Padres enter the free-agent market.

And Klesko did the wise thing sitting out the majority of September after undergoing shoulder surgery. The slugger, who produced just 21 homers playing through the injury, is expected to return at 100 percent in spring training — as is outfielder Mark Kot-say, who was ridden with ailments in 2003.

No. 5: Perhaps the biggest reason for optimism is the fact the Padres will open up Petco Park in 167 days. When they do, they will immediately become a factor, because of increased revenues and the excitement that will follow the new venue.

The Padres have already said their payroll will jump from the mid-\$40-million range to the high-\$50s. That's what gave the club the ability to trade for Giles. The Padres are also said to be ready to spend money on a No. 1 starter and an everyday catcher.

Sure, things didn't go well during the 2003 season. But don't be surprised if the Padres are the fashionable pick-to-click come March 2004.

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CPL. MATTHEW S. RICHARDS

James Maddox, 6, of San Marcos, salutes passing Marines.

Oceanside makes it Grand!



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

With an estimated 80,000 lining the streets of Oceanside, Marines march down Coast Highway Oct. 25. The parade was a historic moment for Oceanside and the 10,000 marching leathemocks.

Thousands line street, cheer on OIF fighters

CPL. MATTHEW S. RICHARDS
NEWS EDITOR

OCEANSIDE — Thundering cannons blasted confetti into the air as thousands cheered I Marine Expeditionary Force Marines marching through Oceanside Saturday in the Defenders of Freedom Parade.

The parade featured 10,000 Marines, sailors, veterans and two high-school bands.

In an outpouring of support, onlookers held "welcome home" and "thank you" signs.

"I think it's really cool to have Marines out here in their uniforms strutting their stuff," said Stacey MacBeth, of Oceanside, a Vista High School student.

Veterans from past wars stood along the route. For some vets, the parade contrasted starkly with receptions they received returning from war.

"We were more or less snuck back in," Ray Flores said of his 1967 Vietnam return. "There were some people at the airport but they were mostly demonstrators. I think the support is well overdue, that's why I'm here."

Other veterans agreed. "In World War II you went there and just came back," said Walter Moore, a retired Marine. Locals had a love-hate relationship with the Corps.

"I would have been here on my hands and knees," Moore said as he sat in his wheelchair on the parade route.

Business owners also were happy to have the Marines home.

Bikers and Marines in cammies crowded the Motorcycle Cafe to watch the procession.

"This is the best day ever," said Mike Fiscetti, the cafe's owner. "We've been busy since we opened."

"Since they've been coming back (from deployment), business has picked up," Fiscetti said. He said they opened in May and didn't suffer as badly as other businesses during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 101 Cafe also showed support for the troops, handing out free coffee to them. By the start of the parade, John Daley, one of the cafe's owners, estimated they served up 1,000 cups of free coffee.

"We've been watching the Marines come back since World War II," Daley said. "I think it's always important to support the troops. We need to welcome them and tell them they're appreciated."

Support even came from people who didn't support the war, including retired Marine Tom McDermott of Murietta.

"I was against it for my own personal reasons, but as soon as they sent (Marines), I was one of the first people waving the flag," he said, adding that his 16-year-old son plans to become a Marine pilot.

Paraders marched through town from 10 a.m. until noon, covering nearly a mile along Coast Highway. They were treated free lunch and a show featuring R. Lee Ermey of "Full Metal Jacket," "The Boys of Company C" and the History Channel's "Mail Call."

The flood of gratitude from celebrities and citizens alike overwhelmed some Marines. "I didn't expect (this), it's just a shock," said Lance Cpl. Mario Jones, of 1st Force Service Support Group who returned from Iraq Oct. 13. "I didn't think the community would go to this length."

"Personally, I didn't think there (would be) that many people to support us," said Sgt. Dennis J. Winiger, of 1st Intelligence Battalion.

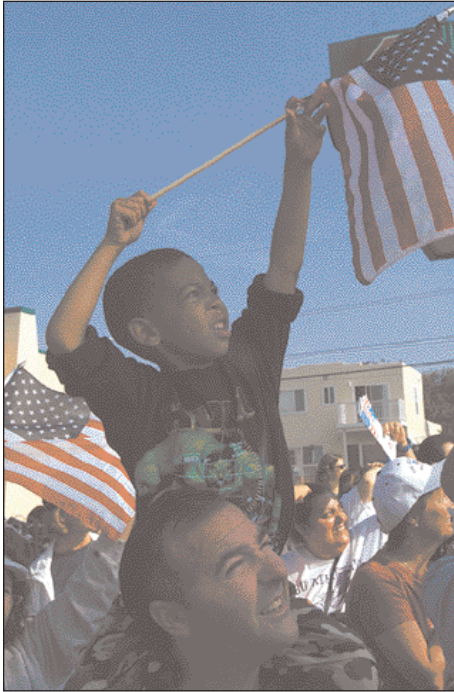
He was especially impressed with the patriotism of children.

"A little girl about 4 or 5 years old screamed out, 'Marines are the best,'" he said. "Hopefully, she's a future Marine."

The parade consisted largely of Marines marching and riding in military vehicles. They waved and smiled as they ambled in formation past cheering, flag-waving admirers. Marine helicopters periodically buzzed overhead along the parade route.

Longtime residents, city records and military archives cited only one other parade in history dedicated to the military — following Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Gunnery Sgt. Matt Hevezi, Sgt. Jim Heuston, Sgt. Leo A. Salinas, Lance Cpl. Macario P. Mora Jr. and Lance Cpl. Samuel Bard Valliere contributed to this story. E-mail Cpl. Richards at: Richards MS@pendleton.usmc.mil.



LANCE CPL. MACARIO P. MORA JR.



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI

(Top) Taj Apodaca, 5, of Murietta, waves a flag at passing Marines while perched atop his father Eric's shoulders. (Bottom) Marines are dismissed after their march at Oceanside Pier.



SGT. JIM HEUSTON

Confetti rains down on Marines participating in the Defenders of Freedom Parade.



GUNNERY SGT. MATT HEVEZI